

MENOMINEE INDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

453.37 Exhibit

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT SCABIES

DESCRIPTION

A disease of the skin caused by a mite (the "itch" mite) with a characteristic pattern of distribution. Scabies is contagious from person to person (by shared clothing or bed linen) and from one site to another in the same person. They usually infect the skin of the finger webs, and folds under the arms, breasts, elbows, genitals and buttocks.

Frequent Signs and Symptoms

- Small, itchy blisters (usually in a thin line) in several parts of the body. The blisters break easily when scratched.
- Broken blisters leave scratch marks and thickened skin, crisscrossed by grooves and scaling.

Causes

A mite that burrows into deep skin layers, where the female mite deposits eggs. Eggs mature into adult mites in 3 weeks. Mites are 0.1 mm in diameter and can only be seen under a microscope. Scratching collects mites and eggs under the fingernails, so they spread to other parts of the body.

Risk increases With

- Crowded or unsanitary living conditions.
- Contact with an infested person (usually by physical contact, but mites can pass by just standing close to an infected person).

Preventive Measures

- Avoid contact with persons or linen and clothing that you suspect may be infected with scabies.
- Maintain personal cleanliness:
 - Bathe daily, or at least 2 to 3 times a week.
 - Wash hands before eating.
 - Launder clothes often.

Expected Outcomes

- Itching usually disappears quickly, and evidence of the disease is gone in 1 to 2 weeks with treatment. In 20% of cases, re-treatment is necessary in 20 days. If skin irritation persists longer than this, oral antihistamines or topical steroids may be necessary to break the itch-scratch cycle.
- Scabies may occur in a community in a 7 year cycle (the "seven-year itch").

Possible Complications

Secondary bacterial infection of mite-infested areas of inflammation.

TREATMENT

General Measures

- Diagnosis is confirmed by discovering the mite, lifting it from its burrow and identifying it under a microscope.
- Treatment is with topical medication.
- Carefully wash all clothes, bedding and toys used prior to or during treatment. You don't need to clean furniture or floors with special care.

Medications

An insecticide lotion such as permethrin, lindane, crotamiton, or 5% sulfur ointment will usually be prescribed. (Infants and pregnant women may need a pediculicide that is less toxic than that prescribed for other family members.

- Bathe thoroughly before applying the prescribed medicine.
- Apply from the neck down, and cover the entire body.
- Wait 15 minutes before dressing.
- Leave medicine on the skin for 2 hours before bathing.
- Your family or other close contacts should be treated at the same time.
- You may need to repeat in 1 week.

Activity

No restrictions.

Diet

No special diet.

NOTIFY OUR OFFICE IF

- You or a family member has symptoms of scabies.
- After treatment, the lesions show signs of infection (redness, pus, swelling or pain).
- New, unexplained symptoms develop. Drugs used in treatment may produce side effects.

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