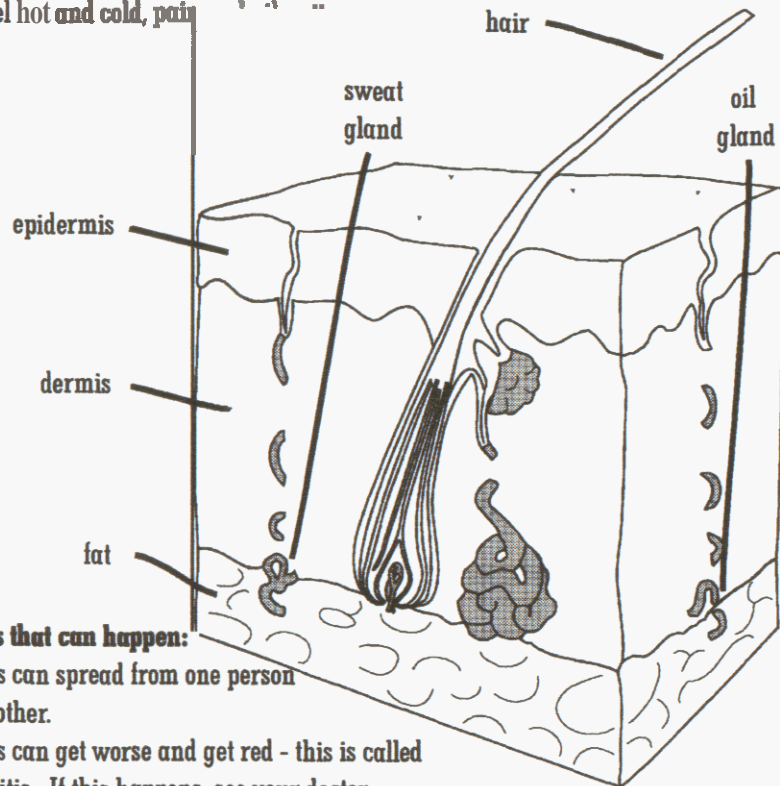


How the skin works:

- Skin protects the inside of your body from the outside world. Skin has two layers. The outer layer is thin (and is called the epidermis). The inside layer is thicker (and is called the dermis). Underneath the skin is a layer of fat.
- The epidermis keeps your body safe from the outside world. The dermis does many different things. It's where the hair grows and where the oil glands and sweat glands are. The dermis has blood vessels and it also has nerves that let us feel hot and cold, pain



Problems that can happen:

- The sores can spread from one person to another.
- The sores can get worse and get red - this is called cellulitis. If this happens, see your doctor.
- The infection can cause problems with your kidney.

This brochure provides a general overview on this topic and may not apply to everyone. To find out if this brochure applies to you and to get more information on this subject, talk to your doctor.



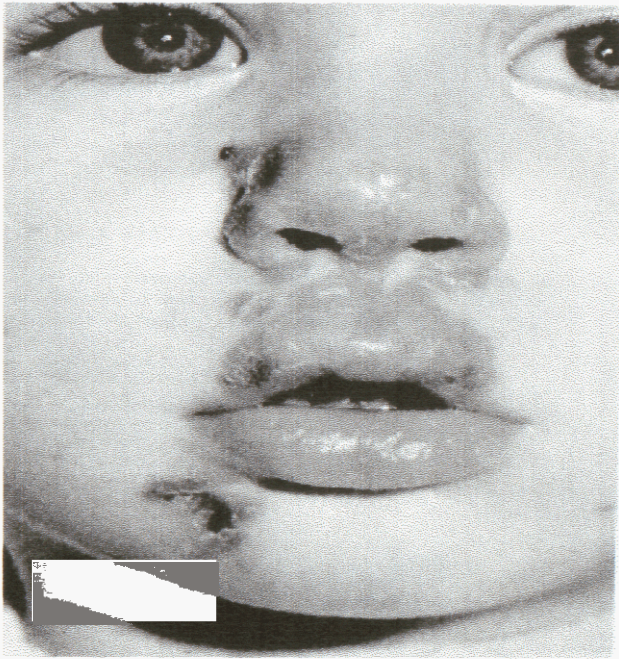
Red Lake Hospital
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Red Lake Hospital Health Tip



Skin Infections

What you need
to know about
Impetigo



What causes it:

- Germs called strep or staph.
- If you get a cut, scrape or burn, these germs can cause a skin infection. **This** infection is called impetigo
- It can spread from one place to another on your **body**.
- It can spread from person to person.

What to look for:

- Sores - one or many
 - anywhere on the skin
 - with a honey **or** golden-colored crust or scab
 - that are itchy
- that produce pus

What to do:

- Soak and take **off** crust
- Wash **sores** with soap and water in the morning, in the afternoon and again **at** night.
 - Use antibiotic ointment each time after washing
- Take the medicine (antibiotic) for 7 days or until the sores **are** gone.
- Change and wash clothes, bedding and towels.
 - Do not scratch the sores - **this** can make the sores worse.
 - Return to the clinic in 3 to 4 days if the sores are not getting better.

How to Prevent Skin Infections:

- Wash with soap and water **every** day.
- Wash your hands when they are dirty,
 - cut your fingernails and keep them clean
- Take care of cuts, scratches and scrapes.
 - wash with soap and water
 - use antibiotic ointment
- Don't share clothes, towels, toys, dishes, etc. with a person who has impetigo.