



MID-JERSEY PEDIATRICS

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IMPETIGO

Definition & Cause

Impetigo is a superficial bacterial infection of the skin caused by either the streptococcus or staphylococcus bacteria. It most commonly occurs after a breakage in the skin by a cut, sore, abrasion or insect bite. These bites or cuts get infected and are then spread by the person scratching the infected area and then scratching other unaffected areas of the body. The sores may start out as blisters which rupture early then slowly form crusted lesions which sometimes drain pus.

Treatment & Course

Many cases of impetigo can be treated by applying a prescription antibiotic ointment (Bactroban or Altabax) directly to the sores for about a week. Sometimes however, oral antibiotics may be required in more severe cases. With proper treatment the skin will be completely healed in 10 days. Some discoloration may persist for 6-12 months. The sores should be cleansed with soap and water before applying the medication. The antibiotic ointment should be applied 3-4 times a day. You can prevent spreading of the infection by keeping your child's fingernails short and by frequent hand washing. Impetigo is quite contagious. Do not share towels, blankets or pillows. If the sores cannot be covered, your child should be kept out of school for one day.

Call Our Office If:

- Urine becomes red or cola colored.
- Any large blisters develop.
- The impetigo increases in size and number of sores after 48 hours of treatment.
- A fever or sore throat occurs.
- You have any other concerns or questions.