

Impetigo

Impetigo is a bacterial infection, usually caused by staphylococcus or streptococcus germs, which invades the upper layer of the skin. The most characteristic features of impetigo are the honey-colored and red scabs that cover all or part of each sore. Common areas are on the face, fingers and around the nose. It is contagious with direct contact, so good hand washing is important. The bacteria live under the scabs, so it is very important to remove the scabs with a mild soap and water. There may be bleeding after scab removal so apply pressure for awhile. After cleansing the area, apply a small amount of antibiotic ointment like Neosporin or Bacitracin. Cover the area if you are able to. If this does not clear the impetigo up after a few days, please contact your health care provider.