

SCABIES

Scabies is an itchy skin condition caused by a tiny, burrowing mite. The presence of the mite leads to intense itching in the area of the burrows. Itching may be especially intense at night. Scabies is contagious and can spread quickly through close physical contact. Take heart in that scabies is readily treated with a prescription medication and thorough cleaning of the home environment (machine washing & drying of all clothing and vacuuming of all areas of the home and environment).

Symptoms: itching, often severe at night, linear burrowing tracks typically found between fingers, armpits, around the waist, along the wrists, inner elbows, even on feet, face and neck. The mite that causes scabies is microscopic and produces a tunnel in which it deposits eggs. The eggs mature in 21 days, so it can take up to a month to show symptoms. The itching of scabies results from the body's allergic reaction to the mites, their eggs and waste.

If you notice this condition please notify your physician for the prescription lotion. It is also advisable to call school, your day-care provider, friends and relatives and anyone who may have been in close contact to your child.