



ThinkAskLearn
Health Professional Education

Classic Paediatric Rashes

David Corkill
Emergency Nurse Educator
MEmergN, MAdvPrac (Hth Prof Edu), BN, Dip App Sc

www.thinkasklearn.com.au


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What is that...

- 48 day old infant presents to Triage by mother
- Has a rash over last week
- S/B GP 4 days ago Dx with Eczema
- O/E irritable child
- Polymorphous rash that covers whole body
- Rash is described as maculopapular, vesicular and pustular


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Defintions



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Definition



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Linear pattern

Pustule

Vesicles

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More History

- During late pregnancy mother had pruritic rash
- As did 4 year old brother who attends daycare

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Scabies in Kids and Adults

- Classic clinical features include
 - intense itch
 - presence of characteristic skin burrows, which can be linear or 's' shaped,
 - papules, nodules, vesicles and pustules
 - lesions are usually seen in the finger webs and flexural regions of the wrists, elbows, axillae and perineal regions in older children and adults
 - nodules on the penis and scrotum are pathognomonic

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However in Neonates

- Neonates do not itch
- Usually extensive rashes
- Irritability,
- Poor feeding and failure to thrive
- Lesions spread rapidly
 - involve the face, scalp, palms and soles
- Vesicles are common, leading to early pustulation, crusting and scaling

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Back to Clinic

- A well 7 year old child has had these lesions on his legs for seven days
- His 4 year old sister has the same skin eruption



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Impetigo – School Sores

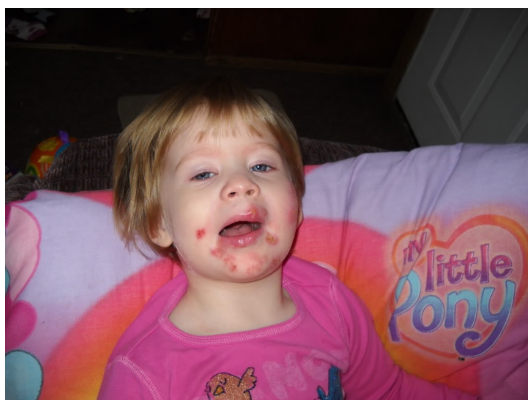
- Reddened sores or blisters
 - break open, ooze, and develop a yellow-brown raised crust, can occur anywhere esp mouth, face
- High contagious bacterial infections
 - *Staphylococcus* or *Streptococcus* bacteria (AB's)
- Incubation period
 - 1-10 days (usually 3 days)
- Good hand hygiene (Staff and patient)



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Chicken Pox



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Chicken Pox

- Common/Highly infectious. It is most common (often epidemic) in late winter and spring
- Varicella zoster virus
- 1st sign itchy rash which spreads to scalp, axilla, back
- Mild fever/cough may precede rash
- Small pink spots which become little water blisters and then become yellow, oozy and finally dry as crusts.



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Chicken Pox - Highly Infectious

- Usually from 2 days before the rash appears and until spots are dry and crusted (usually 5 days after the spots first appear)
- The illness may develop 10 to 21 days after contact with an infected person
- The disease is very easily spread, by direct contact and by droplet spread from the nose and throat
- Those in contact with chickenpox who have not had it before are likely to get the disease



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Chicken Pox Management

- Isolation
- Uncomplicated and resolves completely
- Symptomatic Treatment
 - Antipyretics
 - Analgesia
- Pock marks - to pick or not to pick
- Pneumonitis- occ in adults but rare in children
- Observe for bacterial skin infected- infected lesions



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Meningococcal Infections



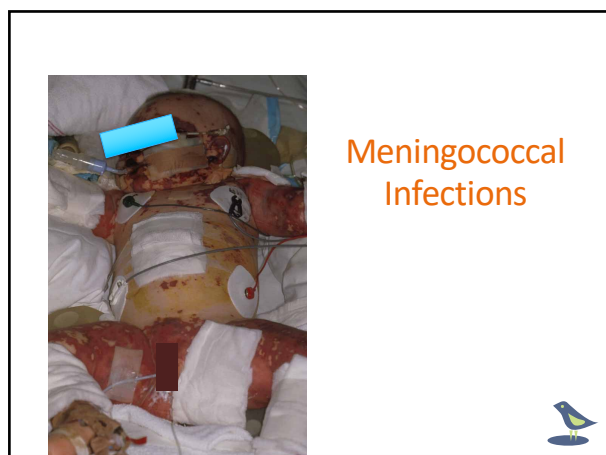
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Meningococcal Infections

- Bacterial meningitis - rapid and fatal illness
- Headache, fever, meningism (headache, neck ache and back ache, stiff neck, photophobia,) and mental obtundation- often absent or diminished in very young.
- Haemorrhagic Rash - does not blanch under pressure
- Do not delay treatment



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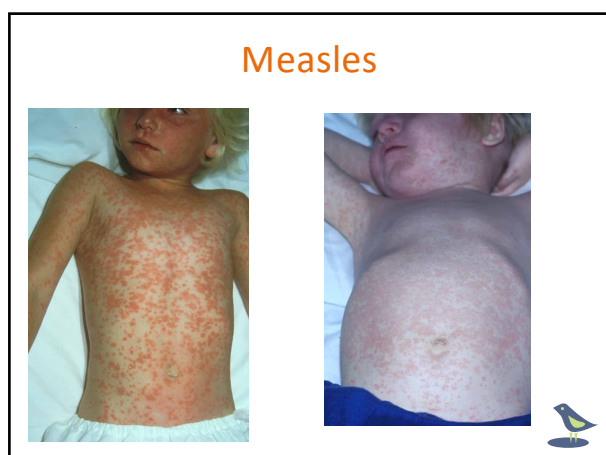
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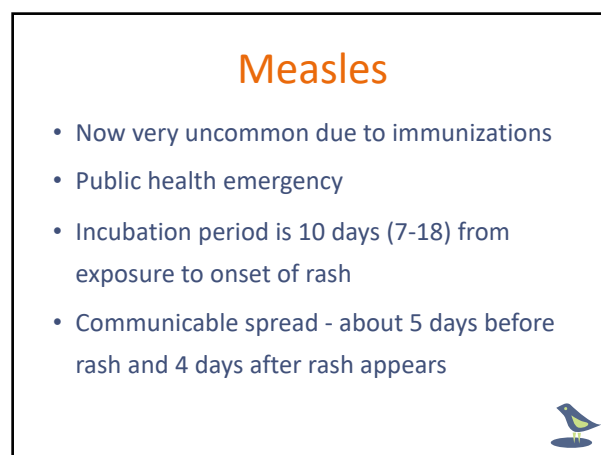
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Measles

- Highly infective virus that effects the resp tract.
- Airborne virus spread by droplet, or direct contact with nasal secretions.
- Flu like symptoms, fever, cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis worsening over 3 days
- Small white spots on a red base on inside of cheek known as Koplik spot's



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Complications of Measles

- 4% - pneumonia
- 2.5% - middle ear infection
- 1 in 2000 will contract encephalitis
- For every 10 kids with encephalitis 1 will die and 4 will have permanent brain injury



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Measles in Aust

NSW Health

Careers Public Healthy living Professionals Research Publications Media

Home Infectious diseases Alerts

Infectious diseases alerts and updates

Current alerts and updates register

Description	Issue date
Measles alert for Sydney	27 April 2025
Measles alert for Sydney and northern Sydney	17 April 2025

Children's Health Queensland 14 November 2025

Public Health Alert (PHA): Measles in South East Queensland. A measles outbreak has been declared in South East Queensland, with multiple confirmed cases reported in recent weeks. Health authorities advise that individuals were unknowingly contagious while visiting public places, and exposure sites continue to be identified. The list of exposure sites is being updated regularly here <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/newsroom/alerts>



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Measles in Aust

Health alert

Status: Active

Alert number: 260222

Date issued: 22 Feb 2026 - Update to alert issued 10 February 2026

Issued by: Dr Christian McGrath, Acting Chief Health Officer

Issued to: Health professionals and the Victorian community

Key messages

- There is an increased risk of measles in Victoria, especially in metropolitan Melbourne. Local transmission has occurred in Melbourne among people with no recent overseas travel or known public exposure.



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Mumps

- Caused by a mixo virus
- The saliva is infectious six days prior to the onset of swelling of the salivary glands.
- The individual may be infectious for up to two weeks after the onset of swelling of the glands.
- Fever
- Swollen parotid glands - Difficulty swallowing
- Symptomatic treatment



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Mumps



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Rubella



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Rubella



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Rubella - German measles

- Incubation period from exposure to rash is 14-21 days
 - Mild fever and headache
 - Swollen, tender lymph nodes at the base of the skull, the back of the neck, and behind the ears
 - Aching joints
 - Runny nose
 - Red, runny eyes
 - A pink rash on the face, body, arms and legs (may appear before or after other symptoms occur) short lasting 3 days



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Rubella

- Symptoms of Congenital Rubella syndrome
 - Deafness
 - Heart defects
 - Cataracts and other eye defects
 - Abnormally small head
 - Mental retardation



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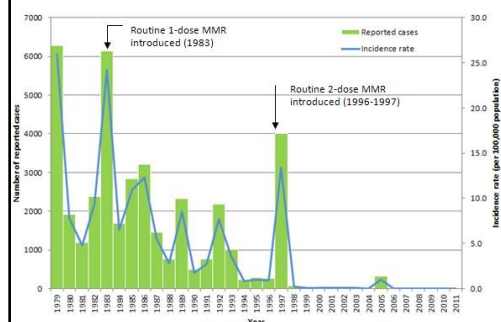
Rubella Complications

- 9 out of 10 pregnancies (1st 8-10 weeks) -
 - Damage to unborn fetus (multiple defects common)
- 1 in 5 to 10 (between 10 and 16 weeks)
 - Damage to unborn fetus
- After 16 weeks damage is rare
- Bleeding disorders 1 in 3000
- Encephalitis 1 in 6000



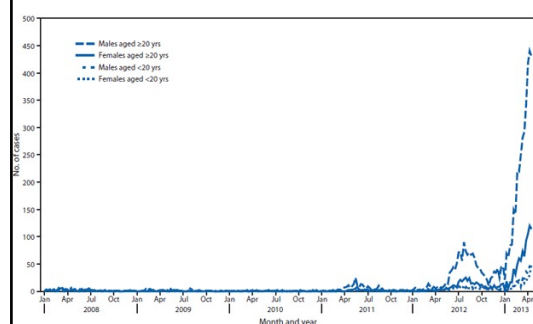
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Rubella Cases - Canada



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Rubella Cases - Japan

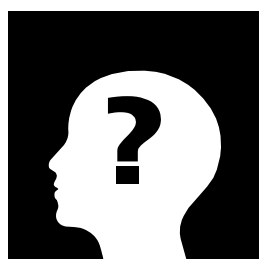


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Any questions?



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