

Pityriasis Rosea

Pityriasis rosea (pit-ih-RYE-uh-sis) (ROE-zee uh) is a skin disorder in children and young adults that includes many scaly patches. These patches can stay on the body for weeks.

What is pityriasis rosea?

Pityriasis rosea is a common skin condition in children and young adults. It often begins with a large scaly spot on your skin called “a herald patch.” Many smaller scaly patches begin to show up and can continue to show up for weeks. The rash usually lasts about 4 to 8 weeks, but can sometimes last longer.

What is the cause of pityriasis rosea?

The cause of pityriasis rosea is unknown, although healthcare providers think it is caused by a virus. Pityriasis rosea is not very contagious, so it does not usually spread to other family members.

What are the symptoms?

The symptoms of pityriasis rosea are different for everyone. Symptoms may include:

- Non-itchy scaling patches
 - Itchy scaling patches
 - Skin color change at the site of the patches
 - Low fevers (rarely)
-

What are the treatment options for pityriasis rosea?

The spots of pityriasis rosea will go away on their own. Most people with pityriasis rosea do not need treatment, but sometimes treatment is given to help with the itching. Skin color change at the site of the patches usually goes away on its own.

To Learn More

- Dermatology
206-987-2158
- Ask your child’s healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.



Seattle Children’s offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children’s will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201. This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children’s. However, your child’s needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child’s healthcare provider.

© 2022 Seattle Children’s, Seattle, Washington. All rights reserved.

1/22
PE2310