
SCABIES

What causes scabies?

Your itching is caused by a very tiny parasite, a mite barely 1/100 inch across, and almost invisible to the naked eye. The female mite burrows into the uppermost layers of the skin, making a narrow tunnel in which she deposits her eggs. These eggs hatch in a few weeks and the young mites migrate to the surface of the skin. The young mites move freely over the surface of the skin, ready to make new tunnels where they may lay more eggs, or move onto some other person who may be in close contact.

Can scabies be cured?

Yes. If you will follow the treatment directions carefully, you should be cured quickly. After two applications, very nearly 100% of people are cured. Some itching may persist for a few weeks after treatment, but this comes from the drying effect of the treatment, or simply persistent irritation from previous infestation. Occasionally a person might be re-exposed to scabies, and get an entirely new attack.

How is scabies treated?

Even though some members of the household may not be itching, ALL members of the household must be treated at the same time.

➤ Tonight

- Apply a thin layer of the Elimate Cream (available by prescription only) from neck to toes so that there is not a single place for the mite or egg to hide and remain untreated.
- Pay special attention to the areas between fingers and toes, under nails, groin, armpits, buttocks, palms and soles of feet. Leave the medicine on for 8-10 hours or overnight.

➤ Tomorrow Morning

- Shower the medicine off with soap and water.
- Put on clean clothes and put clean sheets and pillowcases on the bed.
- Wash your sheets, pajamas, towels and any clothes worn during the previous week.

NOTE:

- It is NOT necessary to wash all clothes in the closet, furniture or carpets.
- The person doing the laundry should not shower until after the laundry is done.

DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY
San Francisco

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How is scabies treated (continued)?

➤ **Next Week**

- Members of the household who were itching should repeat the above procedure 7 days after the 1st treatment.

Remember: Do not put the medicine on your skin more than the times outlined above unless your doctor advises you to do so. It is normal to have the itching for up to three (3) weeks after successful treatment