



It is not usually necessary to treat other people you come into contact with, such as coworkers, unless they experience symptoms such as severe itching. If they have scabies symptoms, they should seek the advice of a dermatologist.

MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND
COSMETIC SPECIALISTS

Paula Nelson, M.D.
Felicity Warren, M.D.
Mary Ellen Luchetti, M.D.
Yvette George, M.D.
Cynthia A. Abbott, M.D.
George D. Miller, M.D.
John F. O'Brien, M.D.
Shelly M. Hall, M.D.
W. Harvey Cabaniss, Jr., M.D.
Keith R. Harris, M.D., M.P.H.
Wakitha Griffin, M.D.
James A. Rooney, M.D.

629 Beaver Ruin Road
Suite B
Lilburn, Georgia 30047
770-921-4300

2550 Windy Hill Road
Suite 103
Marietta, Georgia 30067
770-952-0050

970 Joe Frank Harris Parkway
Suite 330
Cartersville, Georgia 30120
770-382-2230

302 West 6th Street
Rome, Georgia 30165
706-291-0505

1150 Hammond Drive
Suite A-1120
Atlanta, Georgia 30328
770-392-1117

1010 Prince Avenue
Suite 186
Athens, Georgia 30606
706-549-7108

Fax 770-381-6451
www.myfamilyderm.com

Scabies: Information and Treatment

Scabies is a highly contagious but curable skin disease. It affects nearly 330 million people worldwide. It is caused by a tiny insect, too small to be seen by the naked eye, called a mite.

Scabies is spread from person to person through close physical contact. It is commonly spread between children who play together, among family members, and especially to sexual partners. It also can be transmitted by clothing, bedding or towels that have become infested with the mites. The mites cannot jump from one person to another.

Despite prevalent perceptions, scabies is not an indication of poor hygiene, nerves or nutritional deficiency. It affects people of all ages and social statuses.

Treatment of the patient:

Scabies is usually treated with an oral drug called ivermectin which kills mites with just one dose. If a patient weighs less than 30 pounds, he or she cannot take ivermectin and must instead use a topical therapy, such as Elimate cream. Ivermectin also should not be taken by women who are pregnant or breast feeding.

Proper treatment using a topical cream:

- Do not bathe.
- Apply the cream by thoroughly massaging it into all areas of the skin. Be sure to rub it into the navel, under the arms, under the breasts and into the genitalia. Rub it thoroughly into the hands and feet and between the fingers and toes, making special effort to get the cream around and beneath the nails. You may want to use a toothpick to apply the cream beneath the nails. Keep your nails clipped short as scabies mites can hide under your nails. You do not need to apply the cream to scalp hair, but it should be applied around the margins of the scalp.
- If treating an infant, rub the cream into the scalp as well as all other areas of the body.
- Wash off the cream after 8-14 hours. One application is usually adequate to clear up the infestation. In rare cases, your doctor may recommend a second treatment.
- Do not be alarmed if itching persists for several days after treatment. It should get less intense. If severe itching continues for more than a few days, call Family Dermatology to set up a follow-up appointment.

Treatment of the home and bedding:

Scabies is highly contagious. To contain the infestation and prevent it from spreading to others, as well as to prevent re-infection, follow these instructions:

- Wash clothes, towels and bed linens after treatment. You should wash any clothes that were worn within the previous three days in hot water. Consider all clothing to be contagious for five days unless it has been washed or dry cleaned.
- Any clothes that cannot be washed should be sealed in a plastic bag for 10 days. The mites cannot live more than 10 days without food.
- Vacuum the house thoroughly, especially bedrooms.

Treatment of family and others:

Because scabies is highly contagious, the entire household of the infected patient should be treated at the same time, within a 24 hour period. Even though other members of the household may have no symptoms, they may be infested with the mites.

Other people who come into close contact routinely with the family, such as grandparents who baby sit often, should also be treated. There is no need to treat pets, as animals are not susceptible to scabies infestation.

MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND
COSMETIC SPECIALISTS

Paula Nelson, M.D.
Felicity Warren, M.D.
Mary Ellen Luchetti, M.D.
Yvette George, M.D.
Cynthia A. Abbott, M.D.
George D. Miller, M.D.
John F. O'Brien, M.D.
Shelly M. Hall, M.D.
W. Harvey Cabaniss, Jr., M.D.
Keith R. Harris, M.D., M.P.H.
Wakitha Griffin, M.D.
James A. Rooney, M.D.

629 Beaver Ruin Road
Suite B
Lilburn, Georgia 30047
770-921-4300

2550 Windy Hill Road
Suite 103
Marietta, Georgia 30067
770-952-0050

970 Joe Frank Harris Parkway
Suite 330
Cartersville, Georgia 30120
770-382-2230

302 West 6th Street
Rome, Georgia 30165
706-291-0505

1150 Hammond Drive
Suite A-1120
Atlanta, Georgia 30328
770-392-1117

1010 Prince Avenue
Suite 186
Athens, Georgia 30606
706-549-7108

Fax 770-381-6451
www.myfamilyderm.com