

Seborrheic Dermatitis

Seborrheic dermatitis is a common disease of the skin. Its cause is unknown, although a common body yeast is thought to play a role. Symptoms are often aggravated by seasonal changes and stress. Seborrheic dermatitis is not contagious, has no known allergic causes, and is not related to skin cancer.

Seborrheic dermatitis may be seen in early infancy in the form of "cradle cap." In adulthood, it usually manifests itself in peeling and redness in the scalp.

In a more advanced form, the disease can cause redness, scaling and pustules in the eyebrows, eyelids, along the sides of the nose, in and behind the ears, on the nape of the neck, and on the central chest, buttocks and groin.

While the disease is chronic, it can usually be controlled, often with special shampoos and sometimes with a lotion or cream. Occasionally, the condition becomes resistant to one form of treatment and a new regimen of therapy has to be put into use.

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