



Roseola

Facts

- It generally affects children ages 6 months to 3 years.
- There is a high fever (102–104°F) during the preceding 2 to 5 days that clears within 24 hours before the rash appears.
- It presents as a fine, pink rash, mainly on the trunk.
- Children are only mildly ill during the time of the fever.
- Children will be acting fine after the fever.

Cause

The nonsexual form of human herpesvirus–6 causes roseola; humans are the only known hosts.

Expected course

The rash lasts 1 to 7 days, followed by complete recovery. Some children have 3 to 5 days of fever without a rash.

Home care

One percent of children with roseola may develop febrile seizures, therefore, controlling the fever with ibuprofen (Motrin), acetaminophen (Tylenol), and lukewarm baths is required. No particular treatment is necessary for the rash. Roseola is contagious during the febrile period. Other children at this age who have been with your child may come down with roseola in about 10 to 12 days. It is possible to contract roseola more than once.

Call our office

Immediately...

- if the spots become purple or blood colored.

During office hours...

- if the rash lasts more than 7 days.
- if the rash becomes itchy.
- if any new symptoms develop that concern you.

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