



Newborn Rashes

Patient and Family Education

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Your child's doctor or a member of your child's health care team will talk with you about specific care for your child.

What is neonatal acne?

At times, babies have a skin rash (small red bumps on the cheeks, chin or forehead) that looks like the acne seen in teenagers. The bumps may be present at birth or start in the first few weeks of life. The rash may last until 4 to 6 months of age. Since the rash is not infected and is temporary:

- No treatment is needed.
- Daily cleansing with warm water will help.
- Baby oils, lotions and soap can make the rash worse.

What is milia?

Many newborns have blocked skin pores on their face called milia. Milia looks like tiny white or yellow bumps on the nose, cheeks, forehead or chin. They are smaller than pimples and will open up and disappear during the first few months of life:

- No treatment is needed since they are not infected.
- Do not try to squeeze the bumps.
- No creams or ointments are needed.

What is erythema toxicum?

More than half of babies get a rash in the first few days of life called erythema toxicum. The cause of this rash is unknown. The rash looks like small red blotches (about ¼ inch) with a small white bump in the center. Blotches can appear anywhere on the body. A blotch may last from a few hours to several days. The rash is harmless and usually goes away by 2 weeks of age.

- No treatment is needed.
- Baby oils, lotions and ointments can make the rash worse.

When should I call the doctor?

Call your child's doctor:

- For any rash that does not improve as explained above
- If there is any other symptom of illness such as:
 - Fever (temperature over 100.3°F)
 - Is so tired and weak that he hardly responds to you
 - Poor feeding
 - Cannot be calmed for at least a few minutes each hour using methods that usually work for your child, such as holding, rocking, pacifiers or soothing talk.
- For any blisters (small, fluid filled bumps) that occur during the first month of life
- Enlarged areas of redness

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Newborn Rashes, continued

- Pimples larger than an eraser head
- Multiple blisters on a single patch of redness
- If your baby seems ill

Also call your child's doctor if you have questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.