

Scabies

Saturday, 15 December 2007

You will recognize Scabies with strong itching and red coloring on the infected areas

Itching is a disease caused by a mite usually known as *Sarcoptes scabiei*. The female digs under the skin's surface where she lays her eggs. Very tiny, hardly visible tracks mark the routes on which these insects move and lay eggs. The itching is spread by long lasting skin contact with the infected person (you won't get infected by a usual handshake), sexual contact or using the infected person's clothes, sheets and towels. The itching can be spread by lice or by eggs. A quick reaction is necessary if you want to eliminate these parasites.

What does the disease look like?

If the person had never been contaminated with itching, symptoms occur for about 4-6 weeks. The person who had been contaminated before will develop symptoms in a few days. The usual symptoms are strong itching (especially at night), red coloring on the itching areas. The usual areas on which itching occurs are fingers, skin between fingers, back side of arms, elbows, armpits, breast nipples, thighs, waste, sexual organs, area that surrounds the anus. If the disease isn't treated, the females will continue to lay eggs for the next 5 weeks or so. New lice will hatch for about 3 weeks and a whole new cycle would occur. The actual lice are too small to be seen with the naked eye.

What should I do?

It's very important that you quickly consult your practitioner. A wrong diagnosis is a common problem with itching. It is usually set by locating the routes, which is very difficult because of the route's small size and because they are covered with scratch and infection marks. If the routes aren't located on the infected areas, the whole body must be examined. The diagnosis can be confirmed by examining the part of the body with a microscope where the routes were previously located.

How to treat the itching?

There are a number of lotions that can be used to treat itching. You should always carefully stick to the instructions you received from your practitioner. Wash all of your clothes, sheets and towels in hot water and dry them on warm air. If necessary, repeat the method after 7-10 days. Most cases of itching can be cured without long-term consequences.

How to eliminate the disease?

The person could again be diseased with itching, because the lice can survive for a few days without a host. That is why it is important to carefully wash all clothes, sheets and towels you've used for the last few days. To eliminate a new disease, family members and sexual partners should simultaneously treat the disease.