

Scarlet Fever

Scarlet fever is a throat infection caused with group A streptococcus bacteria. It is this bacterium which causes a toxin to produce a scarlet-colored rash on the body.

Not all children are sensitive to this bacterium; some may display different symptoms. If the rash appears with other symptoms of strep throat it can be treated with a course of antibiotics once it has been confirmed with a throat swab.

A child with scarlet fever can spread the infection through coughing and sneezing.

Incubation period is usually 3-5 days.

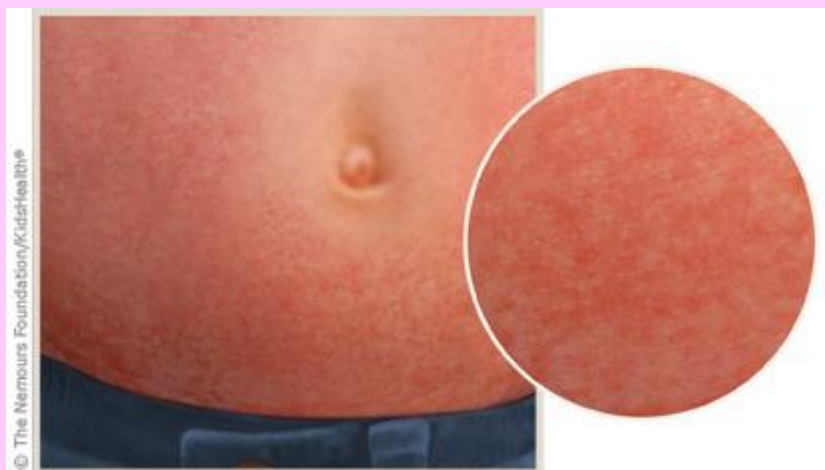
Symptoms

A bright red rash which can be indicative of scarlet fever usually first appears on the neck and face and can spread to the chest and back. The rash may be itchy.

After approximately six days the rash should fade, skin may peel on the hands and feet.

A fever above 38 degrees Celsius.

A sore throat with swollen glands can occur. Sometimes white patches can be seen on the throat.



Treatment

For pain or fever Paracetamol or Ibuprofen can be given.

Plenty of cool fluids to help with a sore throat. Soft foods and warm soothing teas should reduce further irritation to the throat. Ensure your child is well hydrated.

If symptoms are not improving after 48 hours a visit to your Doctor is advised. Antibiotics can be prescribed for up to 10 days if Scarlet fever is confirmed.

A cool mist-humidifier adds moisture to the air which can help soothe a sore throat.

Plenty of rest is advised.