Scabies (sarcoptes scabiei)

Scabies:

- ► The most common infestation worldwide
- Causes intense itching that keeps those affected awake at night
- ► The female mite burrows into the epidermis and lays eggs which hatch into larvae whine a few days

Transmission:

- Transmission occurs because of close personal contact (at least 15 minutes of skin to skin contact)
- The first symptom of itching occur two weeks later when the immune system react to the proteins in the mites, eggs and faeces in the skin
- The distribution of the infestation is characteristically the fingers, wrist, nipples, abdomen, genitalia, buttocks and ankles

Diagnosis:

- May be difficult to diagnose because of the wide variation in clinical presentations
- Key point in the history include several individuals in the same household, classroom or institution
- Burrows can be seen especially in the finger web spaces and on the genitals

Scabies burrows:



Scabies in children:

- Babies and young children infested with scabies characteristically present with erythematous cutaneous papules and nodules in the axillae and the soles of the feet
- It is not unusual for the lesions to blister

Scabies on sole of an infant:



Crusted scabies:

- Crusted scabies can look similar to dry scaly skin rashes such as psoriasis and eczema and consequently can be misdiagnosed
- Patients are usually immunosuppressed or elderly and don't complain of itching as their immune system are not reacting against the mite proteins consequently, mite numbers are usually in hundreds

Crusted scabies:



Management of scabies:

- Patient should be told that they and all their close personal contacts need to be treated at the same time
- The lotions should be applied from the neck downwards (although the head and neck of babies should also be treated)
- The treatment left on overnight and then repeated after seven days
- ▶ Patients should be warned that the skin itching will take 6-8 weeks to subside

Management of scabies:

- First line treatment is 5% permethrin cream
- Second line is 0.5% malathion lotion
- Ivermectin 0.2 mg/ kg can be given to immunocompromised patients and those with crusted scabies

THANK YOU