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Exanthems in childhood

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Exanthems in childhood occur quite often and are mostly related to harmless viral infections. They may present as macular, maculopapular, papular, urticarial or vesicular rashes. However, there are other causes which include bacterial infections, drug reactions, autoimmune and autoinflammatory diseases. In addition, there are exanthems of unknown causes like Kawasaki disease. It is very important to differentiate exanthems of harmless nature from harmful life threatening exanthems. Recently, new specific distinct exanthems like atypical hand foot mouth disease by coxsackievirus A6 and an exanthem in newborns by parechovirus type 3 have been described. In addition, there are new paraviral exanthems including eruptive pseudoangiomatosis and eruptive hypomelanosis.

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