



## Eczema: An Overview

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### EDITORIAL NOTE

Eczema, or atopic dermatitis, is the most common cause of skin rash in children. Irritation and allergic reactions can also cause itchy skin. Allergic contact dermatitis occurs when the skin comes into direct contact with an allergen. The result of the skin allergy is a red, itchy rash that can include small blisters or bumps. The rash arises whenever the skin comes into contact with the allergen, a substance that the immune system attacks. Often, there is a time delay between exposure to the allergen and when the rash occurs.

Touching clothing, pets, chemicals, soaps, and substances such as poison ivy or cosmetics can trigger allergic reactions.. Food allergies can also cause the skin to itch.

Nickel allergies are quite common. When a person comes into contact with jewelry that contains even a small amount of nickel, they can develop red, bumpy, itchy, and swollen skin at the point of contact.

For a person with an allergic reaction to a particular substance, one of the easiest things to do is to avoid that product or substance. Over-the-counter creams or medicated creams can help clear up a rash.

Dermatology is the branch of medicine that involves the study, research, diagnosis, and management of any health conditions that may affect the skin, hair, nails, and membranes. Cosmetology also falls under the wide ambit of dermatology. It is a claim to fame with both medicinal and surgical viewpoints. Conditions of the hair, skin, or nails are very common and almost everyone experiences symptoms of one or other dermatologic condition at some point in their life.

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