

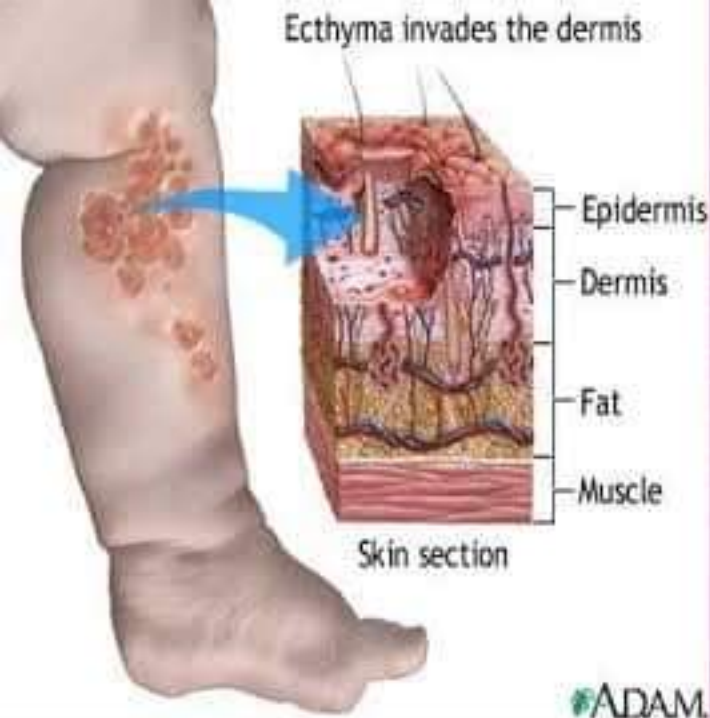
Ecthyma



# ECTHYMA



- Ecthyma is a pyogenic infection of the skin characterized by the formation of adherent crusts, beneath which ulceration occurs.
- consequence of neglected impetigo.
- *S. aureus* and/or group A streptococcus can be isolated on culture
- Poor hygiene and neglect are key elements in pathogenesis.



# Ecthyma



Ecthyma is a skin infection similar to impetigo, but more deeply invasive. Usually caused by a Streptococcus, ecthyma goes through the outer layer (epidermis) to the deeper layer (dermis) of skin, possibly causing scars.

Ecthyma gangrenosum is a bacterial skin infection (caused by Pseudomonas aeruginosa) that usually occurs in people with a compromised immune system.

# PREDISPOSING FACTOR

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- ❑ High temperature and humidity
- ❑ Crowded living conditions
- ❑ Poor hygiene
- ❑ previously sustained tissue injury  
(e.g.excoriations, insect bites, dermatitis)
- ❑ immunocompromised (e.g., diabetes,  
neutropenia, HIV infection)



Deeper variant of impetigo

Caused by *S.aureus* & *S.pyogenes* or both

**Diagnosis:**

- Predominant site: lower limb, buttocks, legs, thighs

- **Appearance:**

small bulla or pustule on erythematous base → a crusted (often heaped up), indurated, tender plaque with erythematous ring, removal of adherent crust → irregular ulcer

Heals with scarring





# Clinical features of ecthyma

- Common on buttocks, thighs and legs.
- Small bullae or pustules on an erythematous base are soon surmounted by a hard crust of dried exudate which appears in chocolate color.
- Base becomes indurated
- On removal of the crust a purulent irregular ulcer is present.
- Healing occurs after few weeks with scarring.





| <b>Impetigo<br/>(staph.aureus and<br/>strep.pyogenes)</b> | <b>Ecthyma<br/>(strep pyogenes)</b> |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| superficial   | deep                                |
| Honey or varnish color crusting                           | Chocolate color crusting            |
| Crust is loosely adherent                                 | Crust is tightly adherent           |
| No ulcer on removal of crust                              | Ulcer on removal of crust           |
| Common site: face   | Common site: lower limbs            |
| Heals without scarring                                    | Heals with scarring                 |

# TREATMENT

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- Cleansing with soap and water  
Application of Mupirocin or Bacitracin ointment twice a day
- Oral Dicloxacillin or first-generation Cephalosporin
- Proper hygiene and nutrition

## IDSA 2014 SSTI Guidelines

# Treatment of Ecthyma

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- **Empiric Therapy**
  - Cephalexin x 7d
  - Dicloxacillin x 7d
- **Suspected or Confirmed MRSA**
  - Doxycycline
  - Clindamycin
  - TMP-SMX