



# Itchy rash on hands

Two year old Morgan has returned from his first holiday in the snow. He and his family stayed in a crowded ski lodge and he spent hours playing in the snow. Now, three weeks later, he has developed this itchy rash on his hands. His sister has similar lesions on her feet.



Steve Trumble

## Question 1

What is the diagnosis?

## Question 2

What causes the lesions?

## Question 3

What is the treatment?

## Answer to last month's brain teaser

**Send your answers to arrive by 5 August. A voucher for medical books or medical equipment to the value of \$100 will be awarded for the first correct entry drawn. The winner will be notified by mail and the answer published in the August 2003 issue.**

**Address entries to:  
July Brain Teaser  
Australian Family Physician  
1 Palmerston Crescent  
South Melbourne  
Victoria 3205**



## Answer 1

Poppy seeds have been placed under surgical tape by a doctor in Vietnam so as to allow self stimulation of acupressure points in an attempt to relieve symptoms of osteoarthritis.

## Answer 2

The seeds resemble fungal spores such as those seen in otitis externa caused by species of aspergillus, a reasonable diagnosis given the history of travel. It is easily discounted, however, by simple questioning.

## Answer 3

The patient's symptoms were due to impacted ear wax.

**The winner of the May Brain teaser is Dr Fung Cheung, St Ives, NSW**