



Rash and scratching

Mike Starr, MBBS, FRACP, is a general paediatrician and infectious diseases physician, Department of General Medicine, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Victoria.

Sam's mother brings him in to see you because he has developed a rash and is scratching and irritable. He has dry skin, with eczematous and erythematous papules. He has a rash on his feet as shown.



Question 1

What is the diagnosis?

Question 2

Give a differential diagnosis.

Question 3

Outline the management.

Answer to last month's brain teaser



Answer 1

Cutaneous larva migrans, or creeping disease, is the commonest tropically acquired dermatosis.

Answer 2

It is caused by percutaneous penetration followed by migration of various nematode larva. Animal hookworm larvae, primarily *Ancylostoma* sp. and *Strongyloides* sp., are responsible for this creeping skin lesion. Humans are accidental hosts. In animals, the larvae enter the dermis and migrate along lymphatics and the venous system to reach the lung in order to complete its life cycle.

Answer 3

Thiabendazole 10–15% applied topically or oral albendazole 400 mg once per day for 3–5 days.

Send your answers to arrive by 5 January. 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 January/February 2004 issue.

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

The winner of the October Brain teaser is Dr Michael Kennedy, Vaucluse, NSW