

ROSEOLA (EXANTHEM SUBITUM) FACT SHEET

What is roseola?

Roseola is a common childhood illness most frequently caused by human herpesvirus 6 (HHV-6), and is usually harmless. Roseola typically occurs in children ages 6 months to 3 years; almost all children get this infection.

What are the symptoms of roseola?

The first symptom is fever, which lasts 3 to 7 days, and is usually high (>103 degrees F). The fever ends abruptly and is followed by a rash that usually lasts 1 to 2 days. Seizures are a potential consequence of high fever.

How is roseola spread?

Transmission of roseola is not well understood. It is likely spread to children by people who carry the virus, but have no symptoms.

How can the spread of roseola be prevented?

There are few recommended prevention/control measures. Keep children home and away from others until symptoms resolve.

How is roseola diagnosed?

Roseola is usually diagnosed by observing the symptoms.

Is there treatment for roseola?

Most children do not need treatment for this infection, but consult with your health care provider for recommendations.

DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN or OTHER SALICYLATE CONTAINING MEDICATIONS TO ANY CHILD OR ADOLESCENT UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.

Where can I learn more about roseola?

For more information please contact Contra Costa Public Health at 925-313-6740 and visit our website at <http://cchealth.org/cd/>