

WSP Scabies 2 Pager



What is Scabies?

- It is tiny (0.3mm) - you cannot see with your eyes
- The female scabies (mite) **dig**s into the skin and lays eggs in the skin
- It triggers a host immune response leading to **intense itching and rash**
- This might be complicated by bacterial infection and lead to serious consequences such as **septicemia (blood infection), heart disease and chronic kidney disease**



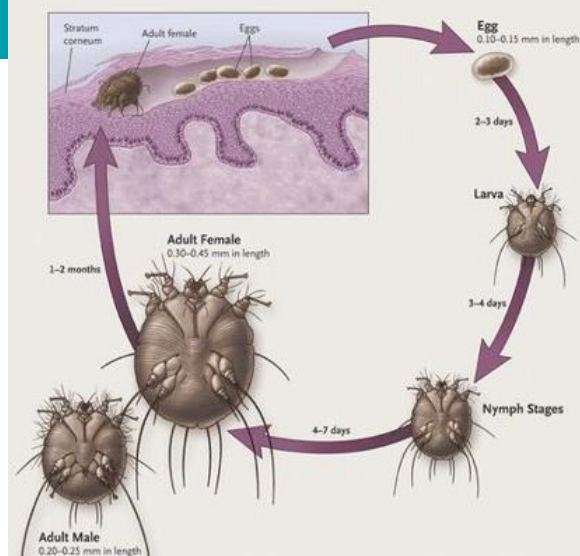
Transmission

transmission occurs person to person, primarily through direct skin-to-skin contact

Scabies mites crawl but cannot jump or fly

More likely if:

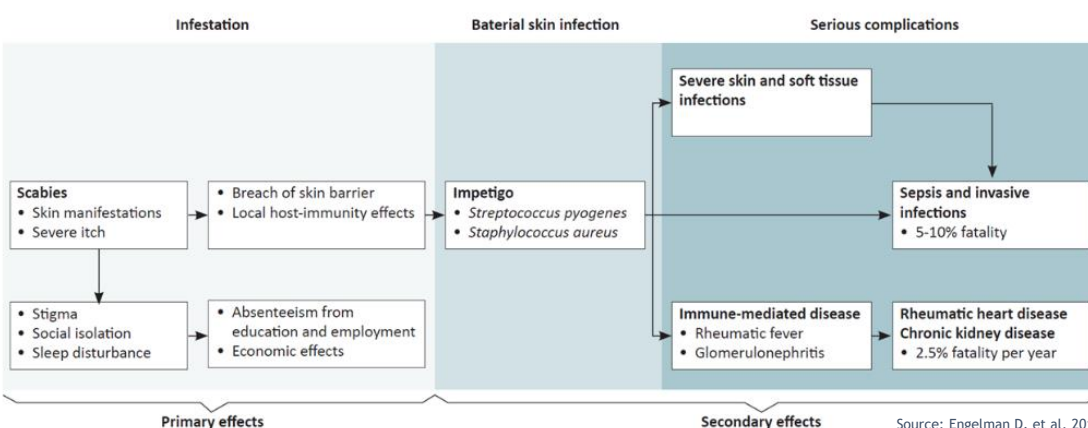
- lots of people living in the same house (**overcrowding**)
- weak immune system
- Can also be **sexually transmitted**
- Less commonly** transmitted through clothes, towels
- NOT from animals** (animals get a different type of scabies)



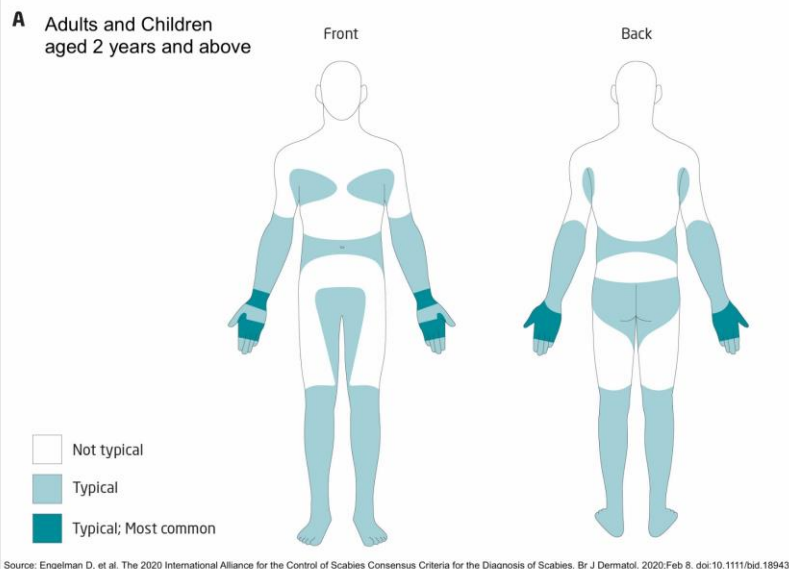
Scabies Impacts and Complications

Scratching → breaks in the skin and wounds → **easy access for bacteria**. Most common bacteria is **Streptococcus** or **Staphylococcus aureus (Strep or Staph)**. **Infection** can lead to impetigo, cellulitis, boils, abscesses, bone and joint infections, septicemia (blood infection). Severe infection can cause **death**.

Strep infection of the skin can cause an immune response, which can cause **kidney disease**. **Acute strep kidney disease can be fatal** or can cause long term damage and **chronic kidney disease**. Abnormal response to infection can possibly cause **rheumatic fever** and **chronic rheumatic heart disease**. This is one of the most common **causes of death in children and young adults in the Pacific**.



Scabies Typical Distribution of Scabies Lesions



- The typical distribution of scabies in **older children and adults** includes lesions on **skin distal to the mid-upper arm** and **mid-upper thigh** and in the **groin, breast** and **peri-umbilical areas**
- Lesions are **most common on the hands**, particularly the **fingers** and **finger web spaces**, and **wrists**
- In **infants**, lesions are typically more widespread, including the **trunk, scalp, palms** and **soles**

Scabies Global Burden

200 million people worldwide are affected by scabies at any given time

- **Very common in the Pacific**, causes stigma & suffering
- Endemic in many resource-poor tropical countries, with an estimated average **prevalence of 5 - 10% in children**
- One of the highest burden NTDs with **3.8 million disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs)**

Global Strategy for Public Health Control

Recommendations from the WHO Informal Consultation (2019)



1. **Mapping:** rapid mapping or prevalence surveys to identify areas requiring MDA
2. **Mass drug administration (MDA):** annually for 3-5 rounds where estimated community prevalence is >10%; stop MDA if prevalence is <2%
3. **Disease management:** treatment of individual cases and contacts in areas with estimated prevalence <2% (to be refined)

