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Pityriasis alba

Pityriasis alba is a common skin condition affecting children and occasionally young adults.

Several round or oval slightly scaly pink patches appear, leaving pale marks when the redness has faded.

Pityriasis alba patches are more apparent in summer, especially in dark-skinned children, because they don't tan as well as the surrounding skin.

Pityriasis alba



What is the cause of pityriasis alba?

Pityriasis alba is a mild form of [dermatitis](#) of unknown cause. It will clear up after a few months, or in some cases persist two or three years. The colour gradually returns completely to normal.

Treatment

No treatment is necessary, but a moisturizing cream may improve the dry appearance. If the patches are red or itchy, a mild [topical steroid](#) cream can be applied for a few days. [Pimecrolimus cream](#) has also been reported to be effective.

Related information

On DermNet NZ:

- [Atopic dermatitis](#)
- [Dermatitis online course for health professionals](#)

Other websites:

- [Pityriasis alba](#) – *emedicine dermatology*, the online textbook

DermNet does not provide an on-line consultation service.
If you have any concerns with your skin or its treatment, see a dermatologist for advice.

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