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Neonatal cephalic pustulosis

What is neonatal cephalic pustulosis?

Neonatal cephalic pustulosis is sometimes called 'neonatal acne'. It is a pustular eruption arising on the face and/or scalp of newborn babies often during the third week. There are no [comedones](#) (blackheads, whiteheads).

Neonatal cephalic pustulosis



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What is the cause of neonatal cephalic pustulosis?

Some researchers believe that neonatal cephalic pustulosis is related to [malassezia](#) colonisation, which may be found on [mycology](#) (microscopy and culture). The role of the yeast is unclear.

What is the result of neonatal cephalic pustulosis?

Neonatal cephalic pustulosis does not cause scarring. It settles within a few weeks of onset.

Treatment

Neonatal cephalic pustulosis generally resolves without treatment. However, if the appearance is unsightly, a [topical antifungal](#) cream can be used safely and may be helpful.

Related information

References:

On DermNet NZ:

- [Infantile acne](#)
- [Malassezia](#)

Other websites:

Books about skin diseases:

See the [DermNet NZ bookstore](#)

Author: Dr Amanda Oakley, Health Waikato, Hamilton New Zealand,

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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