

ERYSIPELAS.

There are two varieties of this disease, the red and the black, the former occurring in persons whose habits are not gross, the latter, in those who live grossly and whose blood and flesh are filled with impurities.

No part of the surface of the body is exempt from this affection, but the skin of the head and face are most subject to it. In cases which arise from wounds, the erysipelas commences at or around the seat of the injury.

Symptoms.—This disease is ushered in with the symptoms of an ordinary fever, sore throat being an early and frequent accompaniment of it. On the second or third morning after the chill, redness and swelling appear on some part of the skin, frequently on one side of the nose, spreading to the rest of the face, and often extending over the scalp, neck, and shoulders. The face soon becomes so swollen that the eyes close, and all traces of the natural features are lost. There is more or less general fever, with excessive heat in the inflamed part.

In the red or mild variety, the inflamed part is of a florid or bright-red color, while in the black or putrid variety, it is of a livid or dark bluish red color.

Treatment.—Give the patient two or three warm or tepid packs daily until the heat is reduced. The bowels should be freed at the outset of the disease by a warm enema. The

patient should be allowed to drink freely of cold water, and must occupy a well-ventilated room.

Hot fomentations, alternated with cold compresses every five or eight minutes, should be applied for thirty minutes to the swollen parts three or four times each day. In the putrid form, tepid wet clothes, or tepid spongings, may be applied to the body constantly until the fever is reduced, instead of so many packs. For diet, see Diet for the Sick.



Erysipelas is a relatively common bacterial infection of the superficial layer of the skin (upper dermis), extending to the superficial lymphatic vessels within the skin, characterized by a raised, well-defined, tender, bright red rash, typically on the face or legs, but which can occur anywhere on the skin. It is a form of cellulitis and is potentially serious- Wikipedia

The Hygienic Family Physician: A Complete Guide for the Preservation of Health, and the Treatment of the Sick without Medicine, pg. 286-87 by M. G. Kellogg