

Natural Help 4...

Scaly Skin



What is Scaly Skin?

While some people may suffer from dry skin, others find themselves affected by a more **extreme skin disorder** called Ichthyosis vulgaris. This skin condition is characterized by extremely scaly skin, especially on the arms and legs, but also on the scalp, back and face.

What Causes Scaly Skin?

The cause for the **condition may be hereditary** (passed on from a parent) or it may occur from an exposure to a trigger in later life, or certain medications may exacerbate the problem. The scales **on the skin range in color from white to gray or brown**. Another cause of extreme scaly skin may be psoriasis.

The acquired form of Ichthyosis vulgaris may also be due to internal factors such as:

- Poor nutrition
- Infections, such as leprosy or HIV/AIDS
- Glandular diseases, such as thyroid problems
- Sarcoidosis
- Cancer
- Use of certain medications (nicotinic acid, cimetidine, and clofazimine)

Both hereditary and acquired Ichthyosis vulgaris can be soothed in the short term by moisturizing the skin. Any cracks in the skin should be treated immediately to prevent an infection. A physician may recommend a topical cream or **lotion containing prescription-strength alpha- or beta-hydroxy acids** (glycolic acid, lactic acid, salicylic acid), or a medication with high concentrations of propylene glycol. Isotretinoin may also be prescribed – however this is a very strong medication with many potential side effects.

If a child or adult continues to have very dry, scaly skin despite twice daily application of an over-the-counter moisturizer should see a physician for evaluation.

Natural Herbal and Homeopathic Remedies related to scaly skin

Help for Scaly Skin

Many herbal and homeopathic remedies have been formulated with specific ingredients to help soothe and **naturally hydrate scaly skin**. Calc Flour. is a biochemic tissue salt particularly useful for the healing of chapped lips and cracked

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Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this ebook or on ANY website.

skin, while *Calendula officinalis* (Marigold) is an herbal ingredient used to treat skin problems and promote healing.

Chamomile soothes skin irritation and reduces pain and discomfort, without side effects or the risk of addiction. Vitamin E products can also be used topically to **ensure optimal skin health**. Always use natural remedies from a reputable source.

Tips to help prevent and treat scaly skin

- Try to limit your exposure to the sun
- Creams and ointments work best when applied just after bathing, while your skin is still moist (gently towel dried)
- Try a natural oatmeal bath to help ease itching
- Very gentle brushing after baths may help in removing the dead skin (always resist peeling skin off!)
- Avoid stress, skin injury, sunburn and skin infections and follow good hygiene habits
- Drink plenty of fluids to keep your body hydrated from the inside out
- Minimize contact with heaters during winter – as they can dry out your skin even further
- As far as possible, avoid alcohol, which can dehydrate your system

The Natural Approach

While Western medicine has become the norm in many cultures, it is not the only treatment option. Conventional western medicine, often called allopathic medicine, is the system of medicine taught at most medical schools and most pharmaceutical and synthetic medicines are manufactured and marketed according to the principles of allopathic medicine. Allopathic medicine is also sometimes called orthodox medicine.

Because most of us in the Western world have grown up in a society in which allopathic medicine is the prevailing norm, we forget that, only a few decades ago, homeopathic, herbal and other natural medicines were commonly available – and freely used even by conventional doctors. While there are often heated debates about which system of medicine is ‘better’ than the other, many responsible doctors (whether they are allopathic or not) recognize that both have a role to play in the treatment program.

Natural medicine has often been frowned on by conventional doctors, especially by those who did not have sufficient knowledge of these medicines. However, it is encouraging to note that some medical schools are now beginning to re-introduce it into their course work, thereby providing doctors with a wider range of treatment options from which to choose. In many countries, especially in Europe, India and China, natural and homeopathic medicines are commonly prescribed by conventional doctors and represent a significant part of the total annual drug sales.

Naturopathy is a branch of medicine (just as allopathy is a branch of medicine) which operates according to the underlying philosophy that the body has an innate capacity to heal itself. While natural medicines are often called ‘alternative’ or ‘complimentary’ medicines, they are, in fact, a unique and independent form of medicine in their own right, well able to treat a variety of conditions. Perhaps the



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Michele Carelse, Clinical Psychologist



All of our natural remedies are formulated by our expert team of herbalists, naturopaths and homeopaths, and headed by Michele Carelse.

Michele has had years of experience in the manufacturing and use of natural remedies. In addition, she is a trained Clinical Psychologist and has been incorporating natural remedies into her treatment of patients with depression, anxiety, ADD, ADHD and stress for many years with spectacular results.

term 'holistic' medicine is more apt, given the broad range of treatment options and approaches which are to be found within the practice of natural medicine, which encompasses many different disciplines, including herbalism, homeopathy, iridology, osteopathy, chiropractic, therapeutic massage techniques, aromatherapy, acupuncture and many, many more.

Most naturopaths will use a variety of treatment modalities in order to treat their patients in a holistic way to support health, relieve symptoms and prevent future disease. In fact, even the World Health Organization defines health as being "... more than simply the absence of illness. It is the active state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being." This is a wonderfully clear description of holistic or natural medicine, which strives to support health (thereby relieving or preventing symptoms), rather than simply eliminating disease.

Although allopathic medicine certainly has a role to play and has made a tremendous contribution to medical science during the past century, there is a growing perception that it is not the only answer and that, in many cases, holistic medicine can accomplish just as much, if not more – without the risk of side effects, addiction and sacrifice to health so commonly associated with pharmaceutical drugs. Contrary to common perception, and provided that they are manufactured in the correct way, natural medicines can work quickly and safely to promote healing.

In many cases, they can succeed where pharmaceutical drugs have failed. Despite frequent reports that they are 'unproven' and 'untested', the opposite is true. Natural medicines have a long history of usage and there is a wealth of empirical evidence to support their effectiveness and safety. In addition, active clinical research is carried out by many academic hospitals and universities to support the extensive traditional and empirical evidence behind natural medicines.

It is also important to know that, like any medicine, herbal and homeopathic medicines must be manufactured in the correct way, following acceptable procedures and manufacturing methods to ensure maximum effectiveness and safety. Due to the recent rise in popularity of natural remedies, many companies have sprung up to take advantage of the market. Unfortunately not all of them are equipped to manufacture to the correct standards, often resulting in a flood of inferior (and sometimes even unsafe) remedies onto the market – and giving natural remedies a bad name.

Even some pharmaceutical companies have rushed to claim their market share by producing so-called 'standardized' extracts of herbs and offering these as superior to the tried and tested methods of naturopathic manufacturing. Nothing could be further from the truth. While 'standardized' extracts may offer benefit of easy consistency of dosage (and cheaper more efficient production lines), they have grave disadvantages. These include an increase in side effects as the medicines produced in this manner lose the natural protective properties of the herbs. In some cases, these side effects have proved fatal – as was seen in the liver toxicity associated with standardized extracts of kava kava, a herb previously safely used for generations without any known side effects.

Most naturopaths recommend what is called the Full Spectrum Method of extraction – which retains the benefits of ALL the active ingredients within the herb as opposed to isolating only one – thereby providing a more complete treatment as well as superior protection against side effects.

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Whatever your choice, always choose wisely. Research what is best for you. If you have a chronic or life threatening condition, don't make changes without first discussing them with your doctor in order that your condition may be monitored. Well informed and supportive practitioners will support patients who want to take responsibility for their own health.

Related Natural Remedies:

Skin Dr.: Support skin strength, health and functioning from the inside

Skin Dr. is a combination of selected herbs and biochemic tissue salts known for their **ability to cleanse and purify the entire system**, supporting healthy lymphatic functioning, as well as the health and integrity of all cells and layers of the skin.

Taken internally, Skin Dr. tablets help to maintain balance and hydration of the skin, as well as the supply of oxygen at cellular level. In addition, **routine removal of old skin cells and the natural regenerative processes of the skin are also supported.**

The formula remains true to the whole spectrum method of manufacturing, ensuring the bio-availability and balance of all the active ingredients contained in the remedy. This method of manufacture also significantly reduces the likelihood of side effects and maintains all active ingredients in perfect balance – exactly as nature intended!

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