

Natural Help 4...

Seborrheic Dermatitis



What is Seborrheic Dermatitis?

Seborrheic dermatitis is a chronic skin condition and is also commonly referred to as dandruff or dermatitis. This condition occurs when the sebaceous glands are overactive, and produce too much oil on the skin. The **skin looks dry, inflamed and turns red**.

It is also covered with a yellowish, greasy scale. It usually **affects the scalp and this is called dandruff**. Other areas of the body such as the face including the forehead, eyebrows, eyelids, folds of the nose and the nose may be affected. Dandruff may also appear under the breasts, the underarms, groin, navel and buttock area.

What Causes Seborrheic Dermatitis?

The cause of seborrheic dermatitis is not known but factors such as hormone and stress as well as **yeast-like organism may contribute to this condition**. Although seborrheic dermatitis cannot be cured, symptoms are treatable. Seborrheic dermatitis may go into remission at times but has a tendency to recur.

It is **especially common in infants** and when this condition affects them, it is known as cradle cap. Cradle cap also affects the diaper area and may look like diaper rash. With treatment, cradle cap disappears after six months. Children during their first year of life as well as teenage boys may develop seborrheic dermatitis.

It also affects adults, middle aged and elderly people, and is generally more common in men than women. Seborrheic dermatitis also tends to occur in adults who suffer from Parkinson's disease, stress, psoriasis, immune system disorders such as AIDS and are in long-term nursing home care.

In infants, seborrheic dermatitis appears on the scalp – cradle cap. During childhood the most distinctive feature is **red skin covered with greasy, crusty scales** in the diaper area, behind the ears, on the face, neck and under the arms. In teens, seborrheic dermatitis occurs as dry flakes of dandruff in the beard area, on the eyelids, ear canals or in the navel.

Help for Seborrheic Dermatitis

Seborrheic dermatitis can be kept under control with treatment and good hygiene. However, seborrheic dermatitis cannot be prevented, and may recur. To **reduce**

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the **symptoms of dandruff**, shampoos containing **selenium sulfide or tea tree oil** such as Selsun, Tegrin, T-Gel or Ionil-T are recommended. Seborrheic **dermatitis** that develops on the face and body should be washed with soap and water daily. If **Seborrheic dermatitis** affects facial hair such as mustache or beard, shaving the area usually helps. Other treatments that may be prescribed by your doctor or dermatologist include medicated shampoos, antifungal drugs, topical corticosteroids and sulfur products.

If infants have developed **cradle cap**, shampooing their hair with a mild non-medicated or **dandruff** shampoo daily helps. Sometimes, if the patch of **cradle cap** is large and thick, it may be softened by **rubbing on warm mineral oil**. Afterwards, brush gently with a baby hairbrush and shampoo.

Good skincare habits such as eating healthily, getting enough rest and exercising regularly are important for the skin. In addition, **sunlight also benefits the skin** but remember to wear sunscreen at all times.

Natural remedies

More and more people are opting **for natural approaches to treat skin conditions**. Treatments such as herbal remedies and tissue salts have been used for centuries to optimize skin health with some amazing results. Using herbs are safe and effective for the skin and do not contain harsh synthetic ingredients and chemicals like so many skincare and cosmetic products.


Herbs such as Galium aperiene (Cleavers) and Trifolium pratense (red clover) have a wide range of therapeutic effects that acts as a cleansing tonic, blood purifier and lymphatic cleanser. Tissue salts such as Natrium muriaticum, Kalium muriaticum and Kalium sulphate help to **maintain skin health and promote well-hydrated skin**.

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,



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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.

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 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

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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.

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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