

Comparison of Skin Infections: Impetigo, Ecthyma, Cellulitis, Erysipelas, Necrotizing Fasciitis

Here's a comparison of the five skin infections based on the provided texts:

Feature	Impetigo	Ecthyma	Cellulitis	Erysipelas	Necrotizing Fasciitis
Severity	Mild	Mild to moderate	Moderate to severe	Moderate to severe	Life-threatening
Bacteria	S. aureus, S. pyogenes	S. aureus, S. pyogenes	S. pyogenes, S. aureus	S. pyogenes	S. pyogenes, S. aureus (and others)
Depth of Infection	Superficial (epidermis)	Deeper (dermis)	Dermis and fat layer	Dermis	Dermis, fascia, muscle
Lesions	Blisters, crusts	Darker, thicker crusts	Diffuse redness, swelling	Well-defined, raised edge	Rapidly spreading redness
Progression	May progress to	Heals with scars	May become necrotic	May become necrotic	Fasciitis, myositis, sepsis

Feature	Impetigo	Ecthyma	Cellulitis	Erysipelas	Necrotizing Fasciitis
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ecthyma

Pain	Mild	Mild to moderate	Moderate to severe	Moderate to severe	Extreme pain
Symptoms	None or mild	None or mild	Fever, chills, malaise	Fever, chills, malaise	Fever, chills, malaise, weakness
Spread	Contagious	Less contagious	Can spread	Can spread	Rapidly spreading
Treatment	Topical antibiotics	Antibiotics	Oral/IV antibiotics	Oral/IV antibiotics	Urgent surgery, antibiotics
Edge	Not well-defined	Not well-defined	Diffuse	Well-defined, raised	Not applicable
Blisters	Yes (especially bullous)	No	May occur	Common	Not applicable

Feature	Impetigo	Ecthyma	Cellulitis	Erysipelas	Necrotizing Fasciitis
Cause	Skin trauma, hygiene	Progression from Impetigo	Skin trauma, bites, etc.	Skin trauma, bites, etc.	Skin trauma, bites, etc.

Similarities:

- All are caused by bacterial infections, most commonly staphylococcus or streptococcus.
- All can start from minor skin trauma like insect bites or eczema.
- All can be treated with antibiotics (topical or oral/IV depending on severity).
- Left untreated, all can lead to more serious complications.

Differences:

- Impetigo is the most superficial infection and least severe.
- Ecthyma is a deeper version of Impetigo with darker crusts and scarring.
- Cellulitis and Erysipelas affect deeper layers and cause more swelling and pain. Erysipelas has a well-defined, raised edge.
- Necrotizing Fasciitis is the most severe and rapidly spreads, causing tissue death and requiring urgent surgery.

Key Points:

- Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial for all these infections.
- Necrotizing Fasciitis requires immediate medical attention due to its rapid progression and high mortality rate.
- If you experience rapidly spreading redness, extreme pain, or signs of systemic illness (fever, weakness), seek medical help immediately.