

Erythema Infectiosum (Fifth Disease)

Erythema infectiosum or Fifth's Disease is mild viral infection that is characterized by the "slapped face" appearance. It typically occurs in school-age children; however, adults can contract the disease. Pain and swelling in the joints (polyarthralgia syndrome) is a common finding in adult women with the disease. It is transmitted by respiratory secretions, blood, and blood products. The period of communicability is uncertain and the incubation period is 4 to 14 days and may be as long as 21 days. Isolation is not necessary.



PLAY PICMONIC

Mechanism

Human Parvovirus B19

[Human with Par-4-virus having Brunch at the 19th hole](#)

Parvovirus B19 is a viral infection that is benign. It is transmitted by respiratory secretions, blood and blood products.

Signs and Symptoms

Cold-like Symptoms

[Cold with Thermometer and Ice-bag](#)

Prodromal symptoms like fever, runny nose and a headache usually occur within 1 week of exposure to the virus.

Three Stage Rash

[\(3\) Tree Rash](#)

This viral infection occurs classically in three stages. It includes a face rash, followed by a truncal rash, which is then followed by a phase of reappearances of the truncal rash.

Slapped Face

[Slapped Face](#)

This is the most classically known symptom of erythema on the cheeks that makes the child look as if they have just been "slapped."

Maculopapular Red Spots on Trunk

[Red Mac-glow-papule-people on Trunk](#)

24 hours following face rash, a maculopapular rash on the trunk appears symmetrically on upper and lower extremities. This lasts about 1 week.

Rash Reappears

[Reappearing Rash](#)

The third phase of this disease is a clearing and recurrence of the rash. This occurs usually if the skin is irritated or traumatized by sunlight, heat, cold, or friction.

Considerations

Aplastic Crisis

A-plastic-bottle Crying

Reticulocytopenia or aplastic crisis occurs in children with weakened immune systems – leukemia, HIV+, and other hemolytic diseases. These patients have decreased numbers of white blood cells.

Joint Pain and Swelling

Swollen Joint with Pain-bolts

This is a self-limiting complication usually occurring in adult women.