

Pityriasis rosea

Cause

reactivation of herpes virus 7
herpes virus 6.

Course

- herald plaque precedes the generalized eruption
- Subsequent lesions enlarge
- systemic symptoms such as aching and tiredness
- eruption lasts 2–10 weeks
- resolves spontaneously
- leaving hyperpigmented patches

Presentation

- Common during winter
- affects children and young adults
- second attacks are rare
- At first herald or 'mother' plaque
 - larger than later lesions
 - Rounder
 - Redder
 - more scaly
- After several days
 - smaller plaques appear
 - On trunk mainly
 - also on neck and extremities
- plaques
 - are oval
 - salmon pink
 - delicate scaling
 - adherent peripherally
 - collarette scales**
 - configuration
 - Christmas tree
 - axes run down and out from the spine
 - along the lines of the ribs

Treatment

- No Cure
- For itching
 - topical steroid
 - calamine lotion
 - Sunlight
 - UVB
- ointment reduces scaling

Differential diagnosis

- tinea corporis
- pityriasis versicolor
- guttate psoriasis
- secondary syphilis
- drug eruption
 - gold
 - captopril