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• ROSEOLA.

This is a common viral illness characterized by high fevers followed by a typical disseminated rash. It mainly affects infants 6 - 18 months old, but susceptibility may persist until 3 years of age.

The virus is known as Human Herpesvirus, types 6 & 7. It is generally a benign illness but in up to 10% of cases, neurological complications such as seizures may occur.

Classical clinical presentation is as follows:

- High non-stop fever, 103 - 105°F for 3 days, although it may persist for 5 days.
- Generalized rash, typically red colored, it begins in the head and progresses to trunk and extremities. This rash normally appears when fever disappears and it may last for 3-5 days.

Complications of this illness:

- Middle ear infection, not precisely a complication it is common to find otitis in many patients with roseola.
- Febrile seizures, these may occur during the high fever period.
- Encephalitis, this is a rare but extremely serious complication.

Prompt consultation with the pediatrician is necessary to advise on:

- Fever management
- Seizure prevention
- Relief of the skin eruption