

Henoch-Schonlein Purpura (HSP)

Children's Services

Lincoln County Hospital

Pilgrim Hospital, Boston

Grantham and District Hospital

www.ulh.nhs.uk

Aim of the leaflet

The aim of this leaflet is to explain a condition called Henoch - Schonlein Purpura (HSP), its causes, symptoms and treatment.

What is Henoch - Schonlein Purpura (HSP)?

HSP is an inflammation of the small blood vessels known as vasculitis. It can also affect blood vessels in the bowel and the kidneys. When the blood vessels get inflamed they can bleed into the skin, causing a rash. The bowel and kidneys may also bleed.

What causes HSP?

HSP occurs when a person's immune system does not fight an infection as it is supposed to.

It is most common in children from 2 to 11 years but it can occur in anyone. It is not contagious.

It can be triggered by bacterial or viral infections, medicines, insect bites, vaccinations or exposure to chemicals.

It is quite commonly seen in hospital paediatric departments and at the GP.

What are the symptoms of HSP?

HSP causes a skin rash which looks like small bruises or small reddish spots, pain in the joints (such as the knee and ankles) and tummy pain.

HSP can cause a high temperature, nausea and vomiting.

If the blood vessels in the bowel and kidney are inflamed you may see blood in your child's poo or wee.

Symptoms usually last 4 to 6 weeks.

Serious problems do not happen very often but they can occur.

How is HSP treated?

There is no specific treatment for HSP, it usually settles by itself.

Pain relief such as paracetamol and ibuprofen can be given for joint pain.

Follow up will be arranged.

Urine tests will be needed to see if there is kidney involvement. Blood pressure, pulse and respirations will also be checked.

If the bowel or kidney is affected specialist tests and follow up may be needed.

Contact details

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this leaflet please contact:

Rainforest Ward, Lincoln 01522 573786
Safari Day Unit, Lincoln 01522 573172
Children's ward, Boston 01205 445563

References

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet please email patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.



If you require this information in another language, large print, audio (CD or tape) or braille, please e-mail the Patient Information team at patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk