



Tara Parker-Pope on Health

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This Is Your Skin Infection, In Pictures

Cuts, blemishes and rashes are getting more attention these days, amidst news reports of skin infections caused by drug-resistant bacteria. Parents who see a pimple or scrape on their kids don't know whether to see a doctor or simply apply ointment and bandages.

The Web site [VisualDxHealth](#) can help. The "Dx" in the name stands for "diagnosis," and the site offers hundreds of medical pictures of skin lesions, including images of the infection now making headlines, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA. Particularly useful are several images of cellulitis, a hard-to-describe infection of the deeper skin tissue also linked to Staph and Streptococcus infections. The timely images of bacterial infections are just a start. The site contains pictures of every imaginable skin problem, including poison ivy rash, the telltale bull's-eye of Lyme disease, warts, risky moles, abscesses and numerous other lesions.

Users can look up a specific disease or simply click on a body part of a man, woman, child or baby to see what type of skin problems commonly afflict different areas of the body. Links next to each image offer extra information, including detailed advice about when to seek medical care for various problems.

If medical pictures make you queasy, this site isn't for you. But for people who have a concern about their skin, these pictures are worth far more than words alone.

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About Well

Healthy living doesn't happen at the doctor's office. The road to better health is paved with the small decisions we make every day. It's about the choices we make when we buy groceries, drive our cars and hang out with our kids. That's the focus of Well, The Times's new health blog. Join columnist Tara Parker-Pope as she sifts through medical research and expert opinions for practical advice to help readers take control of their health and live well every day.



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- Tara Parker-Pope on Health
New York Times