

ROSEOLA

Roseola is a term used to describe the symptoms caused by at least 20 different viruses. It is not a specific disease. It generally only affects children under 2 years of age. The same viruses cause different symptoms in people over the age of 2.

Roseola starts as a high fever lasting 4 to 5 days. The fever breaks and a rash starts behind the ears, spreading down and over the body during the next 1 or 2 days, then fades and disappears. The rash is not painful and does not itch. There is no treatment for roseola itself, although the symptoms can be treated. Roseola cannot be diagnosed until the rash appears. The child should be seen by the doctor to evaluate for other possible illnesses that could cause a fever.