

Cradle Cap

What is cradle cap?

Cradle cap is a skin condition that is seen in infants. The skin often has thick, yellow, greasy scales on the scalp or eyebrows.

What causes it?

The cause of cradle cap is unknown, but it can be treated.

How can it be treated?

- Wash your baby's hair every day with a mild baby shampoo.
- After washing the baby's hair, put baby oil on the scalp and/or dry areas. Massage the oil into the skin. Let the oil sit in your baby's hair for about 10 to 15 minutes. This will help soften the crusts.
- Use a small toothbrush, soft brush or washcloth to gently massage the scalp. This will help loosen the crusts from the scalp and hair.
- Wash your baby's hair again to get all the oil out. Rinse well so the oil does not start to build up on the scalp. If dry skin will not go away, your child's doctor may prescribe a special medicine or shampoo to treat the cradle cap.



ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.