



## Well's Syndrome

**Also known as ...** eosinophilic cellulitis

### What is Well's Syndrome?

Well's Syndrome is a rare inflammatory skin disease which tends to come and go over many years. It can sometimes be confused for cellulitis, an infection of the skin.

### What causes Well's Syndrome?

The cause of Well's Syndrome is not known. However, it has been linked to allergies, insect bites, infections, cancers of the bone marrow and blood, or drugs.

### What does Well's Syndrome look like?

Well's Syndrome often begins as a burning or itching sensation in the skin, followed by the development of raised, red and swollen patches on the skin. These patches can change colour very quickly, starting off as bright red, then turning brown or bluish-grey. You may also notice small lumps or blisters developing on your skin. Other symptoms include tiredness and fevers.

### What other problems can occur with Well's Syndrome?

There are no known problems that occur with Well's Syndrome. Your doctor may want to exclude any underlying causes of Well's Syndrome such as cancers or infection.

### How is Well's Syndrome diagnosed?

The diagnosis is made by taking a small sample of skin, known as a skin biopsy. Your doctor will ask you a few questions about your skin and general health. He/she may also want to perform other investigations such as blood and urine tests, and possibly a chest X-ray to look for any possible triggers.

### How is Well's Syndrome treated?

Well's Syndrome responds very well to steroids. Other treatments may be considered such as anti-histamines, minocycline, dapsone, or Griseofulvin. Your doctor will also treat the underlying cause for your Well's Syndrome if it is identified.

### What is the likely outcome of Well's Syndrome?

Well's syndrome is not a dangerous condition. It is known to come and go, and it can often resolve on its own over weeks to months without any scarring.

*This information has been written by Dr. Samantha Ting and Dr. David Cook  
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