



### **What are hives?**

Acute hives appear suddenly and resolve within a few hours. This may happen daily or on a few days each week, but the problem spontaneously resolves within 6 weeks. More than two-thirds of all cases of hives are acute. Some of these cases may be the result of an allergic reaction or from other causes, listed below.

### **Your child has hives when:**

- \* Your child has itchy, raised pink spots with pale centers. They often look like mosquito bites. They may be different sizes and shapes.
- \* The spots change size and shape. They may move from one area on the body to another.

Your child may be allergic to a food, medicine, insect bites, or other things. This causes the hives. Hives do not spread to other people. They come and go for a few days and then go away.

### **How can I take care of my child?**

- \* Give your child antihistamine medicine. This medicine won't cure the hives, but it will help the itching and reduce the number of hives. Use the drug recommended by your child's doctor.

Be sure to keep giving the medicine until you are sure the hives are completely gone for 24 hours. Otherwise your child may get itchy again.

- \* Make sure your child stays away from anything you think may have caused the hives.
- \* Have your child take a cool bath or shower, if the hives were caused by pollen or animals. Don't use really hot water or rub your child's skin. That can make hives worse.

### **Call right away if:**

- \* It gets hard for your child to breathe or swallow.
- \* Your child starts to act very sick.

### **Call during office hours if:**

- \* Most of the itch is not better after your child has taken the medicine for 24 hours.
- \* You have other concerns or questions.