

Dermatomyositis (DM)

Autoimmune condition that can cause skin rashes and muscle weakness.



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<http://myositis.ca>

Types

- juvenile DM
- amyopathic DM (without muscle weakness)
- cancer-associated DM
- overlap DM

Causes

- uncertain

Impact on the Patient's Quality of Life

- Swollen areas around fingernails, and itchy rash on eyelids, cheeks, nose, back, upper chest, elbows, knees, and knuckles
- Muscle weakness may come later
- May cause fatigue, difficulty lifting heavy objects, or swallowing
- Affects people of all ages and sexes, but is more common among women
- May overlap with other autoimmune diseases

Treatment and Care of Condition

- Primary treatment is oral steroids
- Other options include azathioprine, methotrexate, and biologics
- Topical medication may decrease itchiness