

Some types of skin lesion

Medical term	Common word	Features
macule	spot	not raised above the surface of the skin
papule	spot	raised above the surface of the skin
nodule	lump	a large papule
vesicle	small blister	filled with fluid
bulla	blister	a large vesicle
pustule	-	filled with pus
crust	scab	dried blood etc. on the surface of the skin
scales	scales	a thin layer of epidermis separated from the skin
cicatrix (plural: cicatrices)	scar	a mark on the skin after healing
naevus	birthmark	a coloured skin lesion present at birth
fleshy naevus	mole	a raised brown naevus
verruca	wart	a nodule produced by HPV
furuncle	boil	a large pustule, or skin abscess

Note: The liquid (often yellow) formed as a result of infection is **pus**. If a lesion is **pustular**, it is filled with pus.

Rashes

A **single** skin **lesion** can be **regular** or **irregular** in shape. When there are many (**multiple**) **lesions**, especially macules or papules, the result is a **rash**, (or **spots** in common language); for example the rash of an infectious disease such as rubella. A rash is said to **erupt**, or **break out**.

My little boy has broken out	in spots in a rash	all over his body.
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The following features of a skin lesion are usually noted:

- location
- size
- shape
- colour
- type

For a rash, note also:

- **distribution** (**widespread** – on many parts of the body, or **localized** – on one part only)
- **grouping** (**scattered**- more or less evenly spread out, or in **clusters** – small groups).

Complete the description of *herpes zoster* (shingles) by replacing the medical words in brackets with ordinary English words. Look at the above text to help you.

- (1) _____ (herpes zoster) usually starts with pain and soreness. Then red
 (2) _____ (macules) appear that develop into groups of (3) _____
 _____ (vesicles) over a particular area on one side of the body. In most
 patients, new (4) _____ (lesions) continue to appear for 3 to 5 days. The

(5) _____ (vesicles) become (6) _____
_____ (pustular) and then form (7) _____ (crusts). In severe cases,
there may be (8) _____ (cicatrices) afterwards.

Read the description of the rash of rubella and complete the notes. Look at the above text to help you.

The spots are scattered pink macules which appear first behind the ears and on the forehead.
The rash spreads rapidly, first to the trunk and then to the limbs.

location and distribution:

groupings:

type of lesion:

colour:

Express your idea.

What types of rashes are common in your country? Is there any reason why they are common?