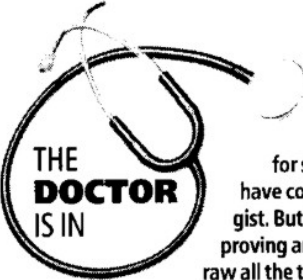


The Indian EXPRESS



I have a 2-year-old daughter who has been suffering from eczema, especially near her wrist for sometime now. We have consulted a dermatologist. But her condition is not improving and the area is itchy and raw all the time. Please advise.

— Neeta Sharma

Dr Rohit Bhargava, Dermatologist, Max Healthcare, replies: Hand eczema in children is usually very uncommon. This might be indicative of some underlying infection. It would be best if you consult a good dermatologist soon. If the infection is not settling down with normal anti-inflammatory cream, it should be taken as a hint of some other infection. It could also be scabies, which can sometime lead to eczema. These things need to be investigated thoroughly. These infections are not lifelong and can be cured if the cause is known.

My daughter is 15 years old and she has been suicidal for the last two years. She maintains that there are ghosts in our house and refuses to stay alone. She has no friends and does not socialise with anyone. We have not been able to convince her to visit a psychiatrist. Please help.

— Kundan Shah

Dr Rajesh Sagar, Associate Professor, AIIMS, replies: It is important that the child be taken to a psychiatrist immediately. People think about things in relation to their personal experiences and it important that we understand the trauma she has undergone. If she has suicidal tendencies or claims to be able to see ghosts, we first need to find out how these thoughts were formed. Such people find it difficult to commit to relationships. It seems that she is fearful of people around her and is suffering from some inadequacies. It also seems that she is still in early stages and her condition can be corrected if intervention is made now. Go to a doctor she is comfortable with.

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