

# Scalp Psoriasis

Psoriasis on the scalp is similar to anywhere else on the body. Research indicates that half of all psoriasis sufferers experience symptoms on their scalp, which can range from scaly, red bumpy patches, to flaky, silvery skin, burning, itching and hair loss. The condition is similar to seborrheic dermatitis and a skin biopsy may be necessary to determine the condition.

It is a non-contagious condition, but it does tend to run in families. Psoriasis is thought to be caused when the body's immune system reacts unusually to an allergen and skin cell growth is accelerated. The **over-production of skin cells** leads to a build up on the skin, often known as "plaques".

Symptoms can vary over time, and are often unnoticeable. They can be quite severe, causing **flaky skin**, **soreness** and **intense itching** which can lead to hair loss. The hair usually grows back well after the psoriasis has cleared, but it can be a distressing condition during flare ups.



# Treatments

Pharmacists and GPs will often advise the use of medicated shampoos, including coal tar and shampoos containing salicylic acid, and there are stronger options available on prescription.



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Email: [info@salcura.co.uk](mailto:info@salcura.co.uk)  
Visit: [www.salcuraskincare.com](http://www.salcuraskincare.com)  
Call: +44 (0)208 979 3592