



## “What is this scaly rash?”

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A 52-year-old male presented with an eight-month history of a red and scaly rash on his face (Figure 1). The rash is asymptomatic, and the scales are thick. His nails are all dystrophic, with nail pitting of one fingernail. He washes his face three times a day with soap and water. Past medical history revealed hypertension and hypercholesterolemia.

*1. What is the most likely diagnosis?*

- a) Psoriasis
- b) Seborrheic dermatitis
- c) Tinea faciei
- d) Eczema
- e) Allergic contact dermatitis

*2. What is the main concern with this rash?*

- a) Associated arthritis
- b) Other areas of involvement
- c) Spread to other people
- d) Local spread
- e) a and b

*3. How could you treat this rash?*


- a) Mild to mid-potency topical steroid
- b) New topical immunomodulator  
(e.g., pimecrolimus, tacrolimus)
- c) Topical antifungal
- d) Imiquimod
- e) a and b 



Figure 1. Red and scaly rash on the face.

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“Case in Point” is a series of interesting cases and diagnoses for general practitioners to sharpen their skills. Submissions and feedback can be sent to [diagnosis@sta.ca](mailto:diagnosis@sta.ca).

**Answers: 1-a ; 2-e; 3-e**