A mother brings her child into the clinic with a rash around the mouth. There is concern from the play group that the child attends that they might have impetigo. If they child has impetigo how would the rash appear?

A) Fissures to the corners of the mouth  
B) Crusty erythematous patches with golden yellow crusting  
C) Raised vesicles around the mouth, and on the lips  
D) Non-blanching petechiae  
E) Bright erythema of the lips, spreading outwards over the vermillion border

Answer

MCQ / ClinicalKey AnswerCard

Answer: Crusty erythematous patches with golden yellow

Impetigo is a highly contagious bacterial infection of the skin, which normally spreads quickly within a group of children, hence exclusion is needed until the lesions have healed or 48hrs after commencing antibiotics. A swab is normally taken to confirm the diagnosis whilst treatment in most cases (non-complicated) is initially topical with topical fusidic acid or mupirocin

The infective organism is usually S. aureas or S. pyogenes