# Measles and Scarlet Fever

The first and second classic childhood exanthems: told apart by their guide sign

**1st**

## First disease: measles

paramyxovirus · high fever · the 3 Cs (cough, coryza, conjunctivitis) · Koplik spots · rash that descends from head to trunk

**2nd**

## Second disease: scarlet fever

group A streptococcus, erythrogenic toxin · pharyngotonsillitis · sandpaper rash · strawberry tongue · circumoral pallor · later peeling

**Tx**

## Treatment

measles: viral, supportive care, prevented by the MMR vaccine · scarlet fever: bacterial, penicillin; it can recur

**Cx**

## Complications

measles: otitis, pneumonia, encephalitis · untreated scarlet fever: rheumatic fever and poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis

**Koplik spots**
Measles

**Strawberry tongue**
Scarlet fever

**Viral vs bacterial**
Support vs penicillin

**The question rarely names the disease: it hides it behind a guide sign**