

# CHICKENPOX PATHOCHART

## PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Varicella zoster, more commonly known as chickenpox, is a viral infection that causes a red, intensely itchy rash with small blisters on the skin and flu-like symptoms. Chickenpox is highly contagious transmitted through airborne particles. Direct contact with papules and vesicles can also spread the virus. The virus commonly affects children and will lay dormant in the nervous system even after the infection clears.

## ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Fever
- Intense itching
- Presence of papules and vesicles
- Crusts and scabs on skin
- Flu-like symptoms



## DIAGNOSTICS

- Clinical findings are usually sufficient
- Swabs of lesions for culture is also possible

## NURSING PRIORITIES

- Promote comfort
- Isolate and prevent spread of infection

## THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Cool compresses
- Airborne isolation precautions
- Encourage rest & hydration
- Anti-itch treatments
  - Creams/lotions
  - Oatmeal bath

## MEDICATION THERAPY

- Antiviral
- Antihistamine
- Acetaminophen
- Anti-itch (i.e. Calamine lotion)