



Geographic Tongue

What is geographic tongue?

Geographic tongue is a condition where the tongue develops smooth red patches of various shapes and sizes. The pattern resembles a map and can change from week to week. The bare spots are painless and the child does not lose the sense of taste.

The condition usually occurs in children under age 6.

What is the cause?

The cause is unknown, but it is not due to a vitamin deficiency.

How long does it last?

The tongue returns to normal appearance after a period of months to years.

What is the treatment?

The condition is harmless. No treatment is helpful or necessary.

*NOTE: This information is provided as a public educational service. The information does not replace any of the instructions your physician gives you. If you have a medical emergency please call 911 or call the Hospital at (208) 529-6111. If you have questions about your child's care, please call Idaho Falls Pediatrics at (208) 522-4600.