

# Sk



## Organ failure nearly cost me arm and breast



**Doreen Mulman, 47, from Hollywood, California**

**B**ack in February 2004, I felt a pain in my arm, shrugged it off and went back to bed. But I woke in agony and my condition began to deteriorate.

I started to get dizzy, began vomiting into a dustbin, then

huge blisters began to form and pop on my arm. I had no clue that I was about to lose my armpit, a portion of my right breast and most of my right upper arm.

I underwent emergency surgery and was later told I'd been in the final stages of multiple organ failure. In recovery, I began to refer to my arm as the "meatsicle" – all that was left was bone with some muscle on it.

I also had trouble going back to my house, what I then

regarded as the "scene of the crime". I was afraid whatever gave me the NF-causing (see opposite page) bacteria was still lurking.

Although I had a skin graft operation, my arm will be grossly disfigured and I will have other life-long problems.



*My arm aka the "meatsicle"*

*I face life-long problems*

# This may make your in crawl!

If you're a little bit squeamish turn the page, or don a pair of surgical gloves to read on...

## Name

Eczema

## Symptoms

Dry, itchy skin

## What is it?

Dry, itchy inflammation which is often described as like having a million tiny creatures running around just under the surface of your skin.

## Who does it affect?

Up to one in five children and one in 12 adults in the UK.

## Is there a cure?

No, but there are many ways of controlling it, especially avoiding irritants such as harsh soaps or bubble baths. Eczema often improves with age too which is good news for some.

Eczema can be controlled

## Name

Vitiligo

## Symptoms

Patches of pale skin

## What is it?

Areas of skin usually exposed to the sun, such as the face, neck and hands, lose their normal pigment.

## Who does it affect?

Causes are unknown but there are more than half a million vitiligo sufferers in the UK, with 50 per cent of cases appearing before the age of 20.

## Is there a cure?

Vitiligo occasionally goes away by itself, and some treatments such as phototherapy or a steroid cream can slow its progress, but there's no cure.

Pale skin is a symptom

## Name

Psoriasis

## Symptoms

Skin patches covered in scales

## What is it?

Skin cells turn over in two to three days – not 28 – so live and dead cells gather and fester together.

## Who does it affect?

Two per cent of the UK population suffer. Can be hereditary but also caused by throat infections, stress, or skin injury.

## Is there a cure?

No. Treatment can help signs.

This condition can be unsightly

## Name

Necrotising Fasciitis

## Symptoms

Similar to flu in beginning

## What is it?

Flesh-eating bacteria that can be caused by a minor wound or bruise.

## Who does it affect?

It can happen to anyone who comes into contact with the bacteria – either externally or because they are already carrying it.

## Is there a cure?

If spotted early gangrenous skin will need to be removed. Amputation is another option.

Symptoms are flu-like to start



But it worsens as it progresses