

Getting to the bottom of that itch

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Allergy testing is accurate but needs experienced practitioners to diagnose accurately. Photo: Thinkstock

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Allergy testing can help identify and improve skin conditions in babies

SINGAPORE — For more than a year, Madam Geraldine Sim sought to relieve her baby's severe rashes which crack and bleed, and are found over his face and body.

"I thought Darius was allergic to regular milk, so I paid more for hypoallergenic formula for him," said the 32-year-old homemaker.

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Mdm Sim let Darius undergo an allergy test at the age of one. The test revealed that house dust mites and shellfish were the cause of his eczema woes.

Allergy testing is done with a skin prick test (SPT) or blood test, which detects specific IgE — antibodies that recognise allergens that the person might be allergic to, said Dr Madeline Ho, consultant dermatologist at National Skin Centre (NSC).

Dr Liew Woei Kang, consultant paediatrician

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