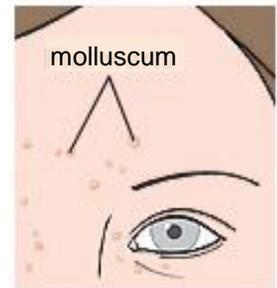


Molluscum (Molluscum Contagiosum)

What is molluscum?

Molluscum is a common skin infection in children. It is caused by a virus. It causes bumps, called lesions, on the skin. These bumps are often found on the face, arms and legs, but they may occur anywhere on the body. The bumps are smooth, pearl or skin-colored and waxy-looking. There may be just one bump or many bumps. The doctor will tell you if a bump is a molluscum.



How does it affect my child?

- Most often, the bumps do not hurt.
- If not treated they can spread to other parts of the body.
- Scratching the bumps may cause the skin around the bump to get red, sore or infected.
- Molluscum can make the skin more sensitive and may cause a dry itchy rash. The rash can be treated with medicine to stop the itching.

How is it spread?

The bumps contain a virus that is passed by direct contact with another person. Children that have not had molluscum are most at risk. Most adults are immune due to previous exposure. Your child should not bathe with anyone while lesions are present. Your child should use their own towels, washcloths, etc. to prevent spread of the infection.

How is it treated?

Molluscum will go away on its own in time, so treatment may not be needed. If your child has a lot of lesions or they are in a bad place on the body, the doctor might recommend treatment. The type of treatment depends on the age of your child, how many bumps there are, and where they are on the body. Treatment can reduce the number of lesions, but can't keep new lesions from developing.

Types of treatment:

- Liquid nitrogen
- Shots (injections)
- Scraping off the bump
- Topical creams

If your child has any of these treatments, the doctor or nurse can give you more information.

ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.