

JUVENILE XANTHOGRANULOMA

What is a juvenile xanthogranuloma?

A juvenile xanthogranuloma (aka JXG) is a harmless collection of immune cells called "histiocytes" in the skin. It often shows up as a red or yellow bump on the skin. It can happen anywhere on the skin and is usually seen at birth, infancy or childhood



What does a juvenile xanthogranuloma do?

JXGs usually start off as smooth pink bumps that usually become more yellow with time. They are usually less than 0.5cm but some can be quite large (~ 2cm). JXGs usually grow for a bit and then shrink over 2-3 years without scarring.

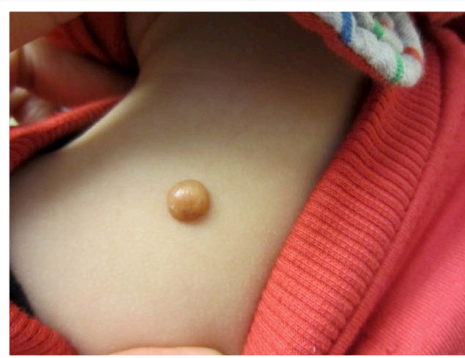


Is a juvenile xanthogranuloma harmful?

Although most children with JXGs do fine, it is important for the child to have a good physical examination by a doctor to look for other JXGs, to look for brown spots on the skin (called cafe-au-lait spots) and to ensure there are no JXGs in the eye, which rarely occurs. If there are many JXGs on the skin, we may need to get an ultrasound to look for JXGs inside the body. Even if they are present, they rarely cause problems and often fade away along with the bumps on the skin. In young patients with lots of JXGs, we often recommend a formal exam by an eye doctor to look for JXGs in the eye.



Multiple JXGs



Single nodular (dome-shaped) JXG



Single flat-topped JXG