

MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM

Treatment

Although molluscum will eventually resolve, lesions spread easily, may become infected, may be itchy or irritated, and are sometimes cosmetically objectionable. For these reasons, they are often removed. However, the goal should always be to avoid permanent scarring or severe discomfort in treating this benign and usually transient condition. The treatment depends on the age of the patient and the size and location of the growths

Options

1. Do nothing!

- Many spots can go away on their own

2. Topical cantharone

- A liquid is placed by your doctor in each bump you want treated. 4 hours later, the bump will get red and form a bubble. If you don't scratch, the bubble will "deflate" over the next 1-2 days and the crust will fall off in 2 weeks.

3. Liquid nitrogen

- A cold medicine put on the bumps by spray or a Q-tip. Can be painful

4. Curettage

- The bumps are 'scraped' off

5. Imiquimod

- A prescription cream to put on nightly over the spots until the spots become red and scaly, then stop

6. Home remedies

- Apple cider vinegar, rubbed garlic and tea tree oil have been tried with variable success



Molluscum contagiosum infection gives **smooth, pearly, skin-coloured skin growths** caused by a poxvirus that lives in the skin.

They begin as small bumps and may grow as large as a pencil eraser. Many have a central pit where the virus bodies live.

Usually, molluscum are found on the face and body, but they may grow in the mouth, eye or other parts of the skin. Molluscum can be itchy and a red, scaly rash can form around the lesions termed "**molluscum dermatitis**". Because molluscum is a poxvirus, when it goes away, it can leave little circular scars on the skin, which take a while to fade away. Rarely, kids can also get little bumps (called an '**id**' reaction) as part of the body's reaction to the molluscum

The bumps usually last from two weeks to one and a half years, and may go away by themselves. The molluscum may be passed from child to child by **direct contact**. Clusters of infected children have been identified who used the same water park or pool, so they may be spread in pools or bathtubs.



Molluscum scarring



Molluscum dermatitis



Inflamed molluscum