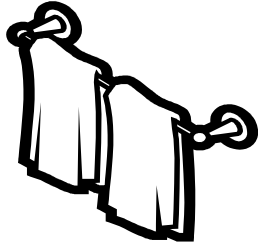


What is Molluscum Contagiosum?

Molluscum Contagiosum (Molluscum) is a viral skin infection. It usually appears on or near the genitals, thighs, belly or butt but it can appear anywhere on the skin. The lesions may look like pimply whiteheads with an indented center.



How Do You Get Molluscum?

Molluscum may or may not be transmitted through sexual contact. People can get Molluscum by:

- Direct skin-to-skin contact with someone who has it.
- Sharing wet towels and other personal items with someone who has the infection.
- Touching your own lesions and then touching another part of your body (if you already have the infection).

How Common is Molluscum?

Molluscum is a very common infection. Sometimes it is found in children and adults by a dermatologist but the diagnosis rate among teens (especially those who are sexually active) is increasing.



What Are The Symptoms Of Molluscum?

The lesions usually appear between 2 weeks to three months after infection (this is called the incubation stage). They may be flesh-colored, whitish or pink. They are about 1/16th of an inch in diameter and may have a dent in the middle with a cheesy-like material inside. It may take up to 6 months for the lesions to go away, but treatment can help them go away more quickly.

How Do I Find Out If I Have Molluscum?

If you notice lesions on your pubic area, thighs, belly or butt that have been there for a long time (like a month), get checked out by a doctor or nurse practitioner. A skilled doctor or nurse practitioner will be able to tell what they are just by looking at them.

How Is Molluscum Treated?

At the Annex Teen Clinic, Molluscum is treated by applying TCA (Trichloroacetic acid) to the lesions. After treatment, people may experience some mild discomfort for a few days until the skin heals. Sometimes several treatments are necessary to make the infection go away.

Other treatment may include freezing with liquid nitrogen, or topical ointments.



Is Molluscum Curable?

Yes. In healthy people, Molluscum will usually go away on its own within about 6 months. Treatment usually helps Molluscum go away more quickly. In people who have HIV or other immune system illnesses, it may take up to five years for the infection to heal or go away.


If you are diagnosed with Molluscum, your sexual partners will also need to be checked out. If they do not have symptoms, they may not be able to get a positive diagnosis for Molluscum.



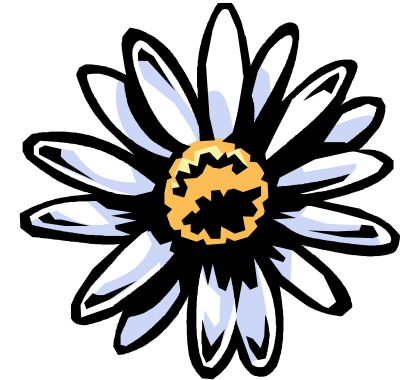
For Appointments call:

763-533-1316

How Can I Reduce My Risk Of Getting Or Spreading Molluscum?

- Avoid sexual contact or skin-to-skin contact with someone who has the infection.
 - If you have the infection, avoid skin-to-skin contact with another person.
 - Always use a condom when you have sex, but remember that condoms only protect what they cover.
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- Never use other people's dirty towels or other personal items.
 - Practice sensible hygiene like washing your hands often with soap and water and bathing/showering on a regular basis.

MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM



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