Molluscum Contagiosum

What is molluscum?

Molluscum are typically firm, dimpled bumps that can occur anywhere on the body. In children, they are most common on the face, trunk, and extremities.

What causes molluscum?

Molluscum is caused by a poxvirus. It is transmitted by skin to skin contact with an infected person. Children are more likely to be infected by this virus. Molluscum can spread to other parts of the body if a child picks at a bump and scratches elsewhere.

What would we expect?

Most molluscum disappear after weeks to months. It can take longer in children with eczema or other chronic health conditions.

How is it treated?

**No treatment:** Because molluscum is harmless and painless, and goes away on its own, it does not need to be treated.

**Removal:**
For molluscum that is spreadly rapidly, becoming irritating or unsightly, it can be treated in a physician’s office. The molluscum can be destroyed with cryotherapy (freezing) or application of verisol (a weak acid). It can also be removed by numbing the skin with a topical cream and then scraping out the core.

When should we call?
A molluscum looks infected.
The molluscum are spreading rapidly.
You have questions or concerns.

Revised 11.2015