

Department of Genitourinary Medicine

Molluscum Contagiosum

What is molluscum contagiosum?

Molluscum is a common infection of the skin caused by a virus. It results in the development of small pearl-like lumps with a tiny central dimple. Sometimes a magnifying glass is required to see the dimple. They are transmitted from person to person. This can happen by direct skin contact or indirectly via clothing, towels or handkerchiefs. It can affect any part of the skin. After transmission has occurred it can take weeks or months before the lumps appear.

Molluscum on the genitals usually arises as a result of sexual contact. Wherever they occur on the skin it is important to avoid touching them as this may result in transferring the infection to elsewhere on the body. Similarly, it is important to avoid sharing towels, flannels, etc.

How is it treated?

Molluscum is most commonly treated using a cold spray known as cryotherapy. This takes several seconds per lump. Cryotherapy involves spraying with liquid nitrogen which destroys the molluscum. Some patients are slightly sore for a few days after treatment.

Precautions

As genital molluscum is transmitted by sexual contact it is wise to have tests for other sexually acquired infections. It is also advisable for sexual partner(s) to be checked in a Genitourinary Medicine clinic, sexual health clinic or by your GP. It is wise to refrain from sexual contact to avoid transmitting the virus for the duration of the treatment.

Follow up

It is necessary to return for a check about a week or two later in case further treatment is required. This can be arranged before you leave the clinic.

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format:
01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Potete chiedere di ottenere queste informazioni in altre lingue, in stampato grande o in audiocassetta.

Italian

若你需要本信息的繁體中文、大字體或音訊格式的版本，請要求索取。

Cantonese

तमने आ माहिती बीछ भाषाओमां, मोटा अक्षरोमां अथवा सांभजी शकाय जेवा माध्यम
(ओडीओ डोमेट)मां जेठती छोय तो कृपा करीने पूछो.

Gujarati

تکایہ پرسیار بگہ نہ گہر نہ وزانیاریہت دہوی بہ زمانیکی تر . بہ پیتی گہورہ یانیش بہ شیوہی دہنگ

Kurdish

آگر آپ کو یہ معلومات دوسری زبانوں میں، بڑے الفاظ کی اشاعت میں یا آڈیو ٹیپ پروکاروں تو برائے مہربانی اس کیلئے درخواست کریں۔

Urdu



Addenbrooke's is smoke-free. Please do not smoke anywhere on the site.
For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free, 0800
169 0 169

Document history

Authors	Dr Chris Sonnex
Department	Department of GU Medicine, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 2QQ www.addenbrookes.org.uk
Contact number	01223 217774
Published	December 2006
Review date	December 2008
File name	Molluscum.doc
Version number	1
Ref	PIN 1196