**Disease Name –**

Molluscum contagiosum, Molluscum contagiosum virus (MCV) infection

**Medical history related Molluscum contagiosum, Molluscum contagiosum virus (MCV) infection –**

History of close contact with individuals affected by molluscum contagiosum. Presence of skin lesions resembling small, raised bumps on the skin. History of immune compromise, as molluscum contagiosum is more common and may be more severe in immunocompromised individuals.

**Symptoms of Molluscum contagiosum, Molluscum contagiosum virus (MCV) infection–**

Symptom 1- Small, Flesh-Colored or Pearly Bumps on the Skin: Molluscum contagiosum is characterized by the development of small, dome-shaped bumps on the skin. These bumps are typically flesh-colored or pearly in appearance and may have a central indentation or dimple. They vary in size, ranging from a pinhead to a pencil eraser, and can be easily mistaken for other skin conditions such as warts or pimples.

Symptom 2- Bumps May Be Painless but Can Become Itchy, Red, or Inflamed: Initially, molluscum bumps are often painless and may go unnoticed by affected individuals. However, as the infection progresses, the bumps can become itchy, red, or inflamed, leading to discomfort or irritation. Scratching the bumps can exacerbate inflammation and may contribute to further spread of the virus to adjacent skin.

Symptom 3- Lesions Often Appear in Clusters and May Spread to Other Areas of the Body: Molluscum contagiosum lesions tend to occur in clusters or groups, particularly in areas of the body with close skin-to-skin contact such as the armpits, groin, or genital area. The virus can spread to other areas of the body through scratching or direct contact with the lesions, leading to the development of new bumps in previously unaffected areas.

Symptom 4- Bumps May Persist for Weeks to Months Before Resolving on Their Own: Molluscum contagiosum lesions typically persist for several weeks to months before resolving spontaneously. The duration of the infection can vary depending on individual immune response and the effectiveness of treatment interventions. In some cases, the bumps may persist for a year or more before clearing completely.

Symptom 5- Occasionally, Lesions May Become Infected, Resulting in Pain or Pus-Filled Sores: While uncommon, molluscum contagiosum lesions can become infected with bacteria, resulting in pain, tenderness, or the development of pus-filled sores. Signs of infection may include increased redness, swelling, warmth, or drainage from the lesions. Infection of molluscum bumps may require medical attention and treatment with antibiotics to prevent complications and promote healing.

**Description of Molluscum contagiosum, Molluscum contagiosum virus (MCV) infection–**

Molluscum contagiosum is a viral skin infection caused by the molluscum contagiosum virus (MCV). It is characterized by the development of small, flesh-colored or pearly bumps on the skin, typically with a central indentation. These bumps, known as mollusca, are usually painless but can become itchy, red, or inflamed. Molluscum contagiosum is highly contagious and spreads through direct skin-to-skin contact or contact with contaminated objects. The infection commonly affects children, sexually active adults, and individuals with weakened immune systems. While molluscum contagiosum is usually harmless and resolves on its own over time, treatment may be necessary to prevent spread, alleviate symptoms, or address cosmetic concerns.

**Causes of Molluscum contagiosum, Molluscum contagiosum virus (MCV) infection–**

Cause 1 - Viral Infection: Molluscum contagiosum is caused by the molluscum contagiosum virus (MCV), a member of the poxvirus family. Infection occurs when the virus enters the skin through microtears or other openings. Once inside the body, the virus replicates within the skin's cells, leading to the formation of characteristic bumps known as mollusca.

Cause 2 - Skin-to-Skin Contact: Direct skin-to-skin contact with an individual who has molluscum contagiosum lesions is a primary mode of transmission. The virus can spread from one person to another through contact with affected skin or by touching surfaces contaminated with virus particles shed from the lesions.

Cause 3 - Contaminated Objects: Contaminated objects, such as towels, clothing, toys, or shared sports equipment, can harbor molluscum contagiosum virus (MCV) particles. Individuals may inadvertently transfer the virus to their skin by using contaminated objects, facilitating the spread of infection.

Cause 4 - Close Contact with Infected Individuals: Close contact with infected individuals, particularly in settings such as schools, daycares, sports teams, or households, increases the risk of molluscum contagiosum transmission. Activities involving physical contact or sharing of personal items can facilitate the spread of the virus between individuals.

Cause 5 - Weakened Immune System: A weakened immune system can increase susceptibility to molluscum contagiosum infection or lead to more severe and persistent cases. Conditions that suppress immune function, such as HIV/AIDS, organ transplantation, or certain medications, impair the body's ability to mount an effective immune response against the virus, allowing it to proliferate unchecked.

**Lifestyle changes to prevent Molluscum contagiosum, Molluscum contagiosum virus (MCV) infection–**

To prevent the spread of molluscum contagiosum, individuals should avoid direct skin-to-skin contact with affected individuals and sharing of personal items such as towels or clothing. Practicing good hygiene, including regular handwashing with soap and water, can also help reduce the risk of transmission. Avoiding scratching or picking at lesions can prevent further spread of the virus and reduce the risk of secondary infections. In settings where close contact is unavoidable, such as childcare facilities, prompt identification and treatment of affected individuals can help prevent outbreaks and minimize transmission.

**Disease background of Molluscum contagiosum, Molluscum contagiosum virus (MCV) infection–**

Molluscum contagiosum is commonly seen in children, particularly those aged 1 to 10 years, due to their frequent participation in close-contact activities and their developing immune systems. It can also affect sexually active adults, especially those with multiple sexual partners or individuals engaging in unprotected sexual activity. Individuals with weakened immune systems, such as those with HIV/AIDS or undergoing immunosuppressive therapy, are at increased risk of developing more severe or persistent infections. Additionally, athletes participating in contact sports, individuals using communal facilities such as gyms or swimming pools, and healthcare workers may also be at higher risk of exposure to molluscum contagiosum due to close physical contact with others or shared equipment.