



BASIC INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION

A contagious virus infection of the skin anywhere on the body. The virus usually occurs on the face in children. In adults, it usually occurs on the inner thighs, abdomen and genitals.

FREQUENT SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Papules (small, raised bumps on the skin) with the following characteristics:

- Bumps are firm, smooth, domed with a central pit, and skin-colored or white. The overlying skin is transparent and thin.
- Bumps are usually 2 mm to 3 mm in diameter. A few may be as large as 10 mm.
- Bumps cause eye irritation if they are on the eyelids.
- Bumps don't hurt or itch.

CAUSES

DNA virus of the pox group. This virus may be transmitted sexually. The incubation is 2 weeks to 6 months.

RISK INCREASES WITH

- Previous allergies or family history of allergy.
- Use of immunosuppressive drugs.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

To prevent spread to other parts of the body or to other people, don't scratch bumps.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

If untreated, a few papules may increase to 20 to 50 lesions in several weeks. They will disappear spontaneously in 10 to 24 months. However, they may be treated to prevent their spread to other persons.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

Scarring or disfigurement.



TREATMENT

GENERAL MEASURES

- Medical treatment to remove the papules with liquid nitrogen (sometimes).
- After treatment with liquid nitrogen, leave the blisters alone. The tops will come off spontaneously in 7 to 14 days.
- Keep blisters dry. Cover with small adhesive bandages any that may be irritated by clothing.

MEDICATIONS

Medicine usually is not necessary for this disorder. In some cases, cantharidin (Cantharone) or other topical medication to kill the virus may be prescribed.

ACTIVITY

No restrictions, except to avoid sexual relations until bumps disappear.

DIET

No special diet.



NOTIFY OUR OFFICE IF

- You or a family member has symptoms of molluscum contagiosum.
- The following occur after treatment:
 - Fever.
 - Signs of infection (swelling, redness, pain, tenderness or warmth) at the treatment site.