

# Molluscum Contagiosum

Anna Dudzinski

# What is Molluscum Contagiosum?

- Molluscum Contagiosum is a common pediatric skin infection caused by a poxvirus.
- It enters through breaks in the skin and causes small, painless raised lesions on the skin's surface.
- It does not cause any internal damage and only affects the surface of the skin.
- It mostly affects school-age children.

# Symptoms

- Molluscum Contagiosum causes pink or flesh-colored raised, dome-shaped bumps on the skin's surface.
- These bumps are usually painless but may be itchy.
- These bumps are usually dome-shaped and have an indentation in the center.
- These bumps are can be found anywhere on the body except for the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet.



# How Does It Spread?

- The virus can spread to other parts of the body if the child scratches the infected area and then touches a non-infected area.
- The virus can spread from one person to another through skin-to-skin contact such such as holding hands or linking arms.
- The virus can also spread when a person touches an object that's likely to carry the infection such as a towel or clothing item.

# Diagnosis

- Doctors can usually diagnose Molluscum Contagiosum just by looking at it.
- If necessary, the doctor may perform a skin biopsy to confirm the diagnosis or refer you to a dermatologist.



# Treatment

- Molluscum Contagiosum usually goes away on its own.
- For most children it takes about 3-9 months for their body to rid itself of the virus; however, it may take up to a few years.
- Additional treatment may be required if your child has:
  - A chronic skin condition, such as eczema
  - Molluscum in the genital area
  - A weakened immune system
  - Extremely bothersome molluscum



# Additional Treatment

- In Office Treatment Options:
  - Extraction of the core
  - Curettage
  - Cryotherapy with liquid nitrogen
  - Cantharidin
- At Home Treatment Options
  - Topical medications such as salicylic acid, topical retinoids and imiquimod



# Prevention

- Try to keep your child away from other children or adults that you know have Molluscum Contagiosum as the virus spreads very easily!





# Molluscum Contagiosum & Look Alikes



<https://www.skinmdandbeyond.com/molluscum-contagiosum/>

# Sources

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