



Skin Concept

Molluscum Contagiosum

It is a common viral skin infection in childhood. The spots are flesh colored or blister like bumps. They can spread to other parts of the body or spread to other close contacts. Therefore the affected person should not share a bath or towel with another person. It may take up to 2 years for Molluscum lesions to disappear. When individual lesion goes away, there is often surrounding eczema e.g. dry red patches. A small scar maybe left behind. The infection may be more severe and persistent if there is a history of atopic dermatitis or immunosuppression.

Possible treatments

All treatment can potentially leave small scars or changes in colors in the treated skin. We can only treat the spots that are there, we cannot prevent new ones from forming.

1. Watch And Wait
2. Squeezing them gently in the bath
3. Canthrene: This is a chemical that is applied by the doctor in the office. It causes separation of the upper layer of skin and therefore may help to shed the virus. The treated area is sometimes covered with a bandaid and the treatment needs to be washed off after 4 hours. Within one or two days, blisters may form and may cause mild discomfort. If the blisters open, you should cover them with a bandaid or a gauze.
4. Liquid Nitrogen: This is extremely cold liquid which the doctor applies at the office every 2-3 weeks. It causes a cold burn to the skin. The treatment may cause a blister or turn into a scab which falls off at 1 week. Small amount of bleeding into the lesion can also occur. If the blister is small, you do not need to do anything different. If the blisters open, you should cover them with a bandaid or a gauze. If the blister is very large and uncomfortable, it is best for it too punctured by a sterile needle. This can be done by a nurse or a doctor.
5. Podophyllin: This is a solution that is applied by the doctor at the office. It contains a toxin which stop cells from dividing, therefore stop the virus from multiplying. Repeat treatment is often required. The treatment should be washed off in 4 hours.
6. Veregan: This is a cream which can be used to boost immune system in the skin to get rid of the virus. It may cause some inflammation such as redness, scaling and discomfort. You can use this three times a day up to 16 weeks.
7. Surgical removal by curettage or excision

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