

ACCESSORY NIPPLE

Accessory nipples are relatively common, and consist of nipples and/or related tissue in addition to the two nipples normally appearing on the chest. Medical terms for accessory nipples include “polythelia” or “supernumerary nipple”. Accessory nipples are generally located somewhere along a line from a point slightly beyond the armpit on the arms, down the chest and the abdomen, to the inner sides of the thighs.

Accessory nipples are typically smaller than the normally placed nipples, are often not well formed, and are usually mistaken for moles or other benign growths. Although it is possible to have multiple accessory nipples, most people have only one, and most are found on the chest or abdomen, somewhere below the normal breast.

Most commonly, a person will have only an extra nipple, without any other breast structures. If they appear complete with breast tissue and ducts they are referred to as polymastia, and may go through changes during puberty or pregnancy like any regular nipple or breast.

Accessory nipples are benign and require no treatment. Surgical removal is an option for cosmetic reasons. In general these harmless lesions are best left alone.

