

FOLLICULITIS

Folliculitis is a common skin problem. The name is derived from two words. Follicle represents the hair follicle or hair root. There are hair follicles present on our entire skin surface except for the palms and soles. In most areas the hair is visible, but there are follicles even in areas where the hair is not visible. The "itis" part of the word refers to the redness, swelling and itching, which may be present around the follicles.

Folliculitis produces red pimple like lesions in the affected areas. In some cases there are tiny pus head bumps present. There may be itching and/or discomfort in the area depending on the type of folliculitis that is present.

Folliculitis is often a combination problem related to irritation in the skin from contact with soaps, detergents, shaving, or rubbing from the clothes. In addition, there may be the normal skin germs present on top of the area, which slows down the healing. That is why in some cases a test is done from a pus head bump.

Fortunately folliculitis is treated fairly easily with combinations of oral and/or topical medication. The specific medication that you get depends on the exact nature of your problem. If you have any other questions about this condition, please do not hesitate to ask me before you leave the office.