

MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM

What is molluscum contagiosum?

Molluscum contagiosum consists of small, harmless skin growths caused by a virus. They are similar to the common wart. Molluscum resemble pimples at first. Later, when they enlarge, they often have a waxy, pinkish look and a small central pit.

Molluscum contagiosum can be spread from person to person by direct skin contact. It is harmless and never turns cancerous.

Treatment

There is no single perfect treatment of molluscum contagiosum since it is not possible to kill the virus with pills or cream. Individual lesions are treated by destroying the virus. This can be done via a scraping procedure, with liquid nitrogen, or with a blistering agent.

Sometimes new lesions will form while existing ones are being destroyed. New growths should be treated when they become large enough to be seen.

Molluscum lesions may become red and sore when the body tries to reject the virus. Sometimes a rash appears around the growths. These symptoms are harmless and can be safely ignored.