

What is Molluscum contagiosum?

- A skin infection caused by a pox virus.
- Small firm flesh-coloured bumps with waxy white centres.
- Can appear anywhere on the body but are common on the genital area, thighs or lower abdomen.
- Because of their appearance they can be confused with genital warts or pimples.

How do I know if I have Molluscum contagiosum?

- It is usually painless but can sometimes be itchy, especially if it gets infected.
- They usually appear within about 2-3 months after infection but this can vary.
- Without treatment they can persist for 6 months to 2 years.
- Most clear up within one year but some people find they get recurrences.
- Some people do not develop lesions even though they have come in contact with the virus.
- People with a suppressed immune system, may have problems with lesions being widespread and less responsive to treatment.

How is Molluscum contagiosum transmitted?

- Spread by close skin to skin contact.
- It may be transmitted on clothing or towels.
- It can be spread from one part of the body to another by scratching
- Avoid popping/breaking fluid filled bumps as this will help spread the virus
- Broken lesions should be covered up if possible
- It usually affects children, sexually active adults and those with a suppressed immune system.

How is Molluscum contagiosum treated?

- Treatment is usually for cosmetic reasons as the lumps may resolve by themselves usually within 1 year.
- It can be treated by removing the centre core with a clean needle or by freezing or burning the lesions.
- Imiquimod (Aldara) cream can also be used as prescribed by a doctor.

Will sexual partner/s also have Molluscum Contagiosum?

- They may or may not. It is advisable for sexual partners to see a nurse or doctor for a check-up if they have any unexplained lumps or itches.

Are there any complications with Molluscum contagiosum?

- There are no serious complications.
- The lesions can become infected and look red and sore. This can also happen after treatment.

This fact sheet is designed to provide you with information on disease. It is not intended to replace the need for a consultation with your doctor. All clients are strongly advised to check with their doctor about any specific questions or concerns they may have. Every effort has been taken to ensure that the information in this pamphlet is correct at the time of publishing (2015)

Greenlane Clinical Centre Bldg 7 Level 3 Greenlane West	South Auckland 12 Waddon Place Mangere	West Auckland 2 nd Floor, 362 Great North Rd Henderson	North Shore 418 Glenfield Rd Glenfield
Freephone 0800739432 to book your appointment today			

