

# Molluscum

## What is Molluscum?

Molluscum is a contagious viral infection that's extremely common in kids and sometimes appears in adults. It is similar to warts, in that both are caused by a virus, however, molluscum are caused by a different strain (the pox family).

Molluscum typically causes small, pink bumps. Children may develop anywhere from 1 to hundreds of these lesions. Usually when multiple lesions are present, then treatment is recommended. It is important to know that this is a viral infection that the immune system will eventually recognize. However, it may take years for the immune system to clear these lesions.

## Treatment and Prognosis

There are various treatment options available for molluscum. When multiple lesions are present, several treatment sessions are often required to completely clear all of the bumps. It is important to realize that mild scarring may occur from these lesions with or without treatment.

## Contagion and Prevention

Technically molluscum are contagious. However, kids with molluscum can continue all normal activities including school, daycare, sports, and other extra-curricular activities. When possible, try to keep molluscum covered by clothing, but no other precautions are necessary. We do not recommend that children with molluscum bathe with their siblings.

They should also have a separate (their own) towel.

## **Associated Skin Conditions**

Sometimes kids will get "rashy" with spots of eczema or dry rough patches around their molluscum bumps. Moisturizers such as vaseline (petroleum jelly) or cerave cream are great for these areas. Prescription steroid creams are sometimes needed to control this, but should be limited as much as possible.