



Molluscum Contagiosum Treatment

Molluscum contagiosum is a common rash in children caused by a poxvirus. The infection causes a skin rash consisting of few to many small, raised, pink or flesh colored bumps with a central dimple. The bumps are typically small (up to 5 mm). The mollusca bumps may occur anywhere on the body. They do not typically cause symptoms. The infection will eventually resolve on its own but may take months to years.

Because the infection is highly contagious and can spread from one part of the body to another, some families desire treatment for molluscum. Physical removal at home is not recommended due to the risk of spreading the virus to other areas or causing infection. Treatment can be provided in our office if desired using topical treatments. It is helpful to check with your insurance company to determine if treatment for molluscum is a covered benefit as treatment can be expensive. Additional information about the treatment is reviewed here.

After treatment with topical medication, you will need to leave the band-aids on for 4-6 hours then give the child a bath using soap and water to remove the treatment. The treated sites will become swollen and red. The area may form a blister or blood blister.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil) may be given for discomfort.

If no blister, crusting, or sore develops, simply wait for the lesion to fall off. No Band-Aid or ointment is needed.

Once the lesion falls off, you may notice a pink or red spot, which will gradually fade. Occasionally, a permanent white mark may be left behind after healing.

Molluscum lesions often require more than one treatment for full resolution. Up to four treatments done every 2 weeks may be necessary. Your provider will discuss this with you at the time of treatment. It is very important that these follow-up appointments are made with the **same provider each time**. It is also important that the follow-up treatments are done **within 2-3 weeks** to maximize effectiveness.