

MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM

WHAT IS MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM?

Molluscum is a very common viral infection of the skin seen mostly in healthy children. It is more common in children with eczema (atopic dermatitis). It is not harmful to your child, and it is okay to leave untreated if there are very few lesions. It generally does not cause symptoms but may itch or become inflamed and sometimes infected. It will eventually disappear but may take months or even years.

IS IT CONTAGIOUS?

It is contagious, particularly when children bathe or swim together or share towels or washcloths. It is also spread by skin-to-skin contact and scratching. It is not necessary to keep children who are infected with molluscum out of school, although physical contact and sharing of clothes and towels should be discouraged.

CAN IT BE TREATED?

Yes, common treatments include topical application of Cantharone, freezing (which are done in the office and cause the lesions to blister, scab, and fall off), or scraping.

INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING CANTHARONE THERAPY

- Observe all treated areas every hour.
- At first sign of blistering, wash medications off with soap and water, preferably in a tub if multiple areas were treated.
- Do not leave on longer than four hours unless otherwise instructed by your provider.
 - Latest time medication should be washed off: _____
- Do not panic if large blisters form. This happens occasionally and is unpredictable. The blisters can be drained, but do not pull off the top of the blister.
- Apply Vaseline or antibiotic ointment to blistered areas once or twice daily until healed.
- Please call the office at 912.354.1018 if you are concerned or have any questions.
- Additional instructions:

Please be patient as multiple visits may be required to eradicate the molluscum. We generally separate visits by three to four weeks.