

## MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM

This is a harmless skin condition caused by a virus. The virus causes spots to appear on the skin. They are usually small, pink or pale coloured, and can sometimes have a small dimple in the centre. When touching them they can feel 'waxy'.

### Are they common?

Yes. Molluscum is not serious and usually clears up in 12-18 months without any treatment.

### How do I get it?

The virus is passed on by close body contact, including sexual contact. It may be possible to get it from towels and clothing. It is, therefore, not unusual for family members to get it or groups of children in a school class or nursery.

The time from coming into contact with the virus to developing spots varies from approximately two weeks to three months and they may not all appear at the same time. Molluscum spots appear on exposed skin, eg thighs, genital area, and abdomen. They are not itchy or painful. After 6-8 weeks, each spot crusts over and disappears.

### What about partners?

Any sexual partner is welcome to attend a clinic and it would be preferable to avoid sexual contact until the spots have cleared, although this is not essential.

### Treatment

Molluscum Contagiosum generally does not need treatment and will heal over naturally. However, treatment may speed the healing process. Molluscum spots can be treated with freezing (cryotherapy) or with cream. Treatment may cause scarring and this is why many clinicians advise Molluscum should be allowed to heal naturally.

## Prevention

Most people are resistant to the Molluscum virus and will not catch it even if they come into contact with it. However, you should avoid sharing towels and you should inform your sexual partner that you have the virus.

## Appointments

There are walk-in and booked appointments every day. Please phone for further details.

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