



MID-JERSEY PEDIATRICS

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MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM

Definition

Molluscum contagiosum has the typical appearance of several clustered flesh-colored, domed-shaped circular warts about 1/8 - 1/4 of an inch (2-4mm) in diameter with a small central (pin sized) depression. The bumps are caused by a virus, which is contagious only by direct close physical contact. Boys seem to be affected more frequently than girls. Your pediatrician can easily diagnose this condition.

Natural Course

The skin bumps rarely cause any discomfort or symptoms. They usually disappear in 1 to 2 years or less without any treatment. There is no scarring if the bumps are left alone.

Medical Treatment

Medical treatment is usually unnecessary. If the warts are symptomatic, they may be treated with topical medication or physically removed. These treatments can be uncomfortable and may on occasion result in scarring.