

Molluscum Contagiosum in Adults

What is molluscum contagiosum?

Molluscum contagiosum (mo-LUS-kum kun-tay-jee-OH-sum) is a harmless skin infection. It does not cause any serious problems. It causes pink, round bumps on the skin.

- The bumps can be as small as a pinhead. Or they can be as big as a pencil eraser.
- The bumps may show up any place on your skin.
- The bumps are hard. They do not hurt. Sometimes they itch.

How do you get molluscum contagiosum?

Most adults get molluscum contagiosum by having sex with someone who has it.

You can also get molluscum contagiosum from:

- skin to skin contact (touching other people or other people touching you)
- sharing towels, clothes, or razors

Adults with a weak immune system are more likely to get molluscum contagiosum.

How do you treat molluscum contagiosum?

Molluscum contagiosum often goes away on its own in a few months or a year. Most people do not treat it because the treatment can be painful, and the bumps are harmless. Talk to your CHN doctor for more information.

How do I keep from spreading molluscum contagiosum to others?

- Do not have sex if you have bumps near your genitals.
- Wash your hands often and well.
- Do not touch, pick or scratch the bumps.
- Try to keep the bumps clean and dry.
- Do not share razors, towels, or makeup.