



Molluscum Contagiosum (MC)

This is a common condition caused by a virus. It mainly occurs in children and young adults, but can occur in older patients. It is contagious from person to person. It also may be spread to different areas of the body by touching or scratching the Molluscum. In young adults it is often a sexually transmitted disease. Because it spreads so easily, it is important to keep washcloths, towels, bedding and clothing separate from other family members.

The MC virus produces a small bump that usually has a yellow center. Sometimes the skin surrounding the bump(s) will develop redness and pus. The MC bumps may go away by themselves without treatment, after months or years.

TREATMENT:

- **Liquid Nitrogen**: This is a freezing treatment that may cause blistering, crusting and occasionally mild scarring or abnormal skin color.
- **Curette Removal**: This removes the central portion or core. This procedure may cause mild discomfort and scarring. You may apply an anesthetic cream beforehand so that the procedure hurts less.
- **Cantharone**: this is a strong medicine, which will cause blisters. Leave it on for 4-6 hours or until next morning as directed by your physician. Then, thoroughly and gently wash off the dry medicine. If the area hurts before you are to remove the medicine, you may go ahead and remove the tape and medicine. If the tape and dry medicine are difficult to remove, soak the treated area in warm soapy water for 10 minutes. If a blister forms, gently make small nick with a needle and press out the fluid with a tissue. You may have pain for several days after the medicine is removed. You may take Tylenol or soak the treated area in cool water to relieve the pain.