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**Molluscum Contagiosum**

**What is molluscum?**

* Common skin infection in children
* Produces harmless, noncancerous growths in the skin’s top layers
* Most common in children ages one to ten years
* Spread by direct contact with the skin of an infection person
* Can be spread by sharing towels, clothing, toys, etc.

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/molluscum/image\_less\_severe\_molluscum\_closeup\_lg.htm

* Bumps are painless and may last for several months to a few years!

**Symptoms:**

* Small number (usually between 2-20) of raised, dome-shaped bumps on the skin
* Bumps are very small and flesh-colored
* Rash is most often found on the face, trunk, and extremities
* May develops anywhere except palms of the hands and soles of the feet!
* Rash is usually painless but may be itchy or sore

**When to call the doctor:**

* If you suspect your child has molluscum or if you are unsure

**Treatment:**

* Molluscum usually goes away on its own without treatment
* Bumps can be removed in-office if you or your child desires
  + Scraping, peeling or freezing techniques – may be painful

**Prevention:**

* Avoid skin-to-skin contact with another child or adult with molluscum
* If you or your child has molluscum, keep areas covered (with clothing or bandage) if infected area may come in direct contact with others (always remove bandage before bed)

**Home Remedies:**

* Apple Cider Vinegar
  1. Soak cotton ball with apple cider vinegar
  2. Tape cotton ball to affected area with medical tape
  3. Leave treatment on overnight, reapply as needed
  4. Bumps will turn white and then fall off or disappear within several days
* Duct tap
  1. Apply small piece of duct tape on the bump overnight and remove it in the morning
  2. Use nightly until bump is gone