WHAT IS MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM?

Molluscum Contagiosum is a skin disease caused by the Molluscum Contagiosum virus (MCV).

Molluscum Contagiosum can cause one or more small, painless lesions or bumps that appear on areas of your skin, on the thighs, buttocks, groin, and lower abdomen of adults and may occasionally appear on external genital and anal regions.

Molluscum Contagiosum infection can be quite uncomfortable and long lasting up to a year or longer.

HOW CAN YOU LOWER YOUR RISK FOR MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM?

Everyone, including adults and children are at risk for contracting Molluscum Contagiosum because it's a skin to skin disease. To lower the risk of getting Molluscum Contagiosum:

- Preventing skin-to-skin contact with an infected partner will be the most effective in preventing MCV.
- Latex condoms or other moisture barriers for vaginal, oral, or anal sex may help to prevent such contact.
- Limit your number of sexual partners.
- Avoid sharing clothing, towels, or bedding with infected persons.
- Mutual monogamy (sex with only one uninfected partner).

HOW DO YOU GET MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM?

- Engaging in unprotected sexual activity including vaginal sex, oral sex, or anal sex.
- Engaging in mutual masturbation.
- Sharing towels, bedding, or clothes.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM?

The main symptom of Molluscum Contagiosum is the appearance of a red or flesh colored rash of painless, individual lesions called molluscum on the infected area. The molluscum usually:

- Has an incubation period from one week to six months.
- Grows in clusters of two or more lesions.
- Grows to between two and five millimeters in diameter.
- Have indented centers.
- Grows on the genitals, thighs, and lower abdomen.

HOW IS MCV DIAGNOSED?

The Molluscum Contagiosum virus is usually diagnosed by a visual inspection of the lesions.

CAN I GET MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM AGAIN AFTER I’VE BEEN TREATED?

Yes, there is no permanent immunity to the virus and it’s possible to become infected again through contact with an infected person.

HOW IS MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM TREATED?

Molluscum Contagiosum will clear up without treatment in between six months to two years. Because, it can take so long to clear up, and it can be unpleasant to look at, there are treatments available through your health care practitioner. Treatments can involve:

- Removing the Molluscum Contagiosum
- Freezing the lesions
- Removing the core of the molluscum lesion
- Scraping the lesions off the surface of the skin

IF I HAVE MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR MY PARTNER?

Because you can pass Molluscum Contagiosum to your partner and children through casual contact with the infected area, it is best for everyone you have regular contact with to be evaluated and treated if necessary.