Molluscum Contagiosum consists of small (less than 4 mm), harmless skin growths caused by a poxvirus. They resemble pimples at first. Later, the lesions are shiny, white to flesh-colored, dome-shaped with a firm, waxy appearance and a central pit or depression (umbilication) and a “cheesy” core. Molluscum can be spread from person to person by direct skin contact affecting the genitalia, abdomen, thighs, and buttocks.

Treatment

There is no single treatment, since we are unable to kill the virus. It can go away on its own often in 6-9 months, but the most reliable means of treatment include:

1. Superficial removal (light scraping)
2. Liquid nitrogen
3. Blistering agents

Patient Education

1. Following treatment, keep area clean and dry.
2. The healing process is complete in 2-3 weeks.
3. Individual lesions can become secondarily infected (red, warm, tender).
4. It may be difficult to tell Molluscum from genital warts (HPV), which can be harmful.