

the facts about
**molluscum
contagiosum**

auckland
**sexual health
service**



If you have a sexual health concern, including HIV or AIDS, check it out at your friendly Auckland Sexual Health Service

Molluscum Contagiosum

Molluscum contagiosum is a skin infection. It appears as small firm flesh-coloured bumps with waxy white centres. These can appear anywhere on the body but are common on the genital area, thighs or lower abdomen. Because of their appearance they can be confused with genital warts or pimples.

What are the symptoms of Molluscum Contagiosum?

Molluscum contagiosum are usually painless but can sometimes be itchy, especially if they get infected. Without treatment they can persist for 6 months to 2 years. Most clear up within one year.

People with infections that cause immune suppression, may have problems with molluscum being widespread and less responsive to treatment.

How is Molluscum contagiosum transmitted?

Molluscum contagiosum is spread by close skin to skin contact. It may also be possible for mollusca to be transmitted on clothing or towels. It can also be spread from one part of the body to another by scratching.

How is Molluscum Contagiosum treated?

Treatment is for cosmetic reasons. Molluscum can be removed by using a sharp tooth pick to remove the centre core or by freezing or burning the lesions.

Will sexual partner/s also have Molluscum Contagiosum?

They may have or they may not. It is advisable for sexual partners to see a nurse or doctor for a check-up if they have any unexplained lumps or itches.

Are there any complications of Molluscum Contagiosum?

There are no serious complications. Mollusca can become infected and look red and sore. This can also happen after treatment.



Auckland Sexual Health Services:
Building 16 (opposite Domain duckpond)
Auckland Hospital. Ph: 307 2885

West Auckland Sexual Health Service
2nd Floor, 362 Great North Rd,
Henderson. Ph: 836 0838

Manukau Sexual Health Service
Manukau Health Centre, Wiri Station Rd,
(next to Rainbows End) Ph: 263 7604

North Shore Sexual Health Service
Cnr Glenfield & Peach Rds. Ph: 443 2544

www.sexfiles.co.nz