KERRY SKIN CLINIC
SKIN, HAIR + NAILS SPECIALISTS

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Treating Molluscum Contagiosum in Children

Molluscum Contagiosum are small wart like lesions that can occur in small children. They are due to a virus and are harmless and usually clear without treatment within six to eighteen months. They are often associated with dry skin so moisturizing the area with a thick greasy moisturizer such as emulsifying ointment rubbed downwards twice a day may help speed up the clearance of molluscum contagiosum.

Traditional cures may also work just as they do with viral warts and rely primarily on the placebo effect which is 27% effective in clearing warts. Wart paint such as Salicylic acid, Occlusal and Selactol are not usually used on molluscum contagiosum. However, a solution containing potassium hydroxide 5%,("Molutrex" which is available on Amazon.co.uk), can be applied to molluscum if they are very unsightly or very uncomfortable in a small child. This is usually applied with a tiny brush like a nail varnish brush twice a day for a maximum of fourteen days or until the time the Molluscum become red and sore, whichever is shorter.

Occasionally Dr Buckley may freeze off molluscum on a child if they are very unsightly or uncomfortable. Unlike warts, molluscum are very sensitive to cold and the tiniest freeze of three seconds is often sufficient. While a child of six to twelve years old might tolerate this, smaller children may not. An anesthetic cream applied for fifteen or thirty minutes before the freezing may help minimize pain or discomfort.

In summary, molluscum are best left untreated in children as they will clear themselves usually within six to eighteen months.

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For more information:

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