

Molluscum Contagiosum

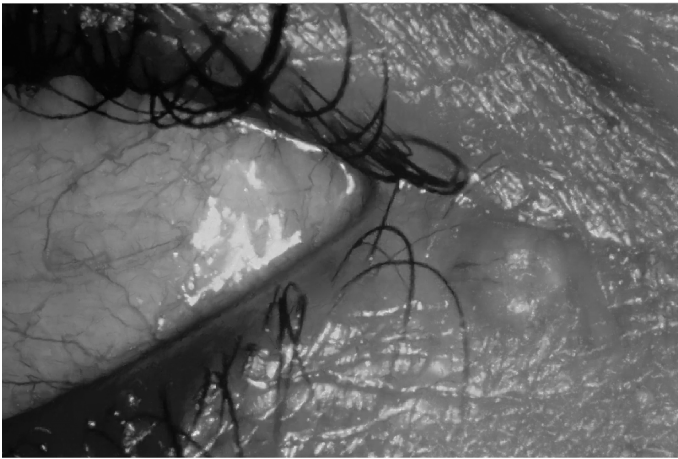
Molluscum contagiosum is an inflammatory lesion caused by a DNA Poxvirus "Molluscum Contagiosum Virus".

It is more common in children than adults. It can affect any area of the body but most common on the trunk, arms and legs. It is also common around the eyes.

It is spread via skin to skin contact, or handling towels etc can cause the virus to spread. The virus can spread amongst children at school readily, hence the term contagiosum. The time from infection to appearance of lesions is usually around 4 weeks but can be longer and shorter.

The lesion last about 8 weeks but new lesions occur until the bodies immune system tackles them. Thus Molluscum can persist on a persons body from 6 months to 5 years before the bodies immune system finally deals with all the virus.

Lesions located in the eyelid margin may cause an associated follicular conjunctivitis and frequently a keratitis.



Often a small umbilicated tumor, sometimes partially hidden in the eyelashes, is not recognized.

The treatment for lesions around the eye is by excision or curettement of the lesion.

Nicholas Lee 14/1/2011