

# Molluscum Contagiosum

Molluscum Contagiosum is caused by a virus that infects the skin. It can be passed from one person to another during sex, but it can also be passed by skin to skin, nonsexual contact.

## ***How is Molluscum passed?***

Molluscum can be passed from one person to another during sex or, more commonly, through other close skin to skin contact, such as occurs in wrestling or close nonsexual contact. It is also possible for it to be passed by persons sharing towels. It's commonly found in people that exercise in gyms and people who ride bicycles a lot.

## ***What do I look for?***

- Several smooth, firm, rounded bumps with a dip in the center, which appears on the thighs, sex organs, buttocks, below the waist, and in the pubic hair.
- Bumps may be tan, yellow, grey or pink in color.

## ***How is Molluscum treated?***

- One treatment is liquid nitrogen (a very cold gas) that may be used to destroy the bumps.
- You may need to come back to the clinic more than once to get rid of the bumps.
- It is not necessary to do any treatment. The Molluscum virus does not cause any side effects or complications. It may go away by itself without any treatment.
- Avoid shaving until symptoms have cleared completely.

## **For more information:**

Please talk with your City Clinic clinician or your own health care provider. The following websites also offer helpful information:

### **General STD**

[www.ashasexualhealth.org](http://www.ashasexualhealth.org) (also in Espanol)  
[www.cdc.gov/std/](http://www.cdc.gov/std/)  
[www.sfcityclinic.org](http://www.sfcityclinic.org)  
[www.sfsi.org/](http://www.sfsi.org/)

### **Teens**

[www.iwannaknow.org](http://www.iwannaknow.org)  
[www.amplifyyourvoice.org](http://www.amplifyyourvoice.org) (also in Espanol)  
[www.kidshealth.org/teen](http://www.kidshealth.org/teen) (also in Espanol)  
[www.scarleteen.com](http://www.scarleteen.com)

### **Contraception and STD/sex info**

[www.bedsider.org](http://www.bedsider.org)

For a STD check-up or treatment,  
see your doctor, local clinic, or come to:



City Clinic  
356 7th Street  
(between Folsom and Harrison)  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 487-5500  
[www.sfcityclinic.org](http://www.sfcityclinic.org)