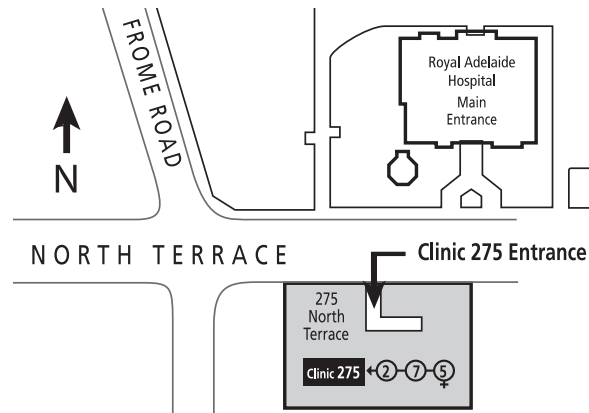


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Please refer any questions about this information to your treating medical officer and/or nursing staff.

Location



For more information

STD Services web site:
www.stdservices.on.net/std/

Email: std.services@health.sa.gov.au

Monday, Thursday and Friday
10am – 4.30pm

Tuesday and Wednesday
11am – 6.30pm

1st floor, 275 North Terrace
Adelaide 5000

Telephone: 8222 5075

Toll free country call: 1800 806 490

Non-English speaking: for information in languages other than English, call the Interpreting and Translating Centre on (08) 8226 1990 and ask them to call the Royal Adelaide Hospital. This service is free.

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Molluscum contagiosum

No appointment necessary
Free and confidential advice, testing and
treatment for all STDs including HIV/AIDS

Molluscum Contagiosum

Molluscum contagiosum is a skin infection caused by the molluscum contagiosum virus (MCV). It is a mild condition that is easily treated, but eventually resolves by itself if not treated.

Symptoms

The incubation period for molluscum contagiosum is between one week and six months.

Molluscum contagiosum appears as smooth, round, pearly lumps with a central core. The lumps may be located on or around the genitals (for example in the pubic area, on the abdomen or inner thighs). Usually between ten and twenty lumps appear, but this may vary.

The lumps are painless but sometimes may be slightly itchy, especially after treatment.

Without treatment, the condition can persist for six months to two years, although any one lump will usually clear up in two to three months.

Transmission

The molluscum contagiosum virus is passed from one person to another by skin-to-skin contact. In adults with symptoms on or near the genitals, this means sexual contact may transmit the infection.

It may also be possible for MCV to be transmitted on clothing or towels.

The lumps can be spread from one part of the body to another (not necessarily the genitals) by scratching.

Complications

The most common complication of molluscum contagiosum is bacterial infection, which may cause the lumps to become red and sore. However, redness and soreness may also be signs that the lumps are about to disappear naturally.

If you experience these symptoms and they don't improve quickly, you should consult a doctor in case antibiotic treatment is required.

Treatment

Although molluscum contagiosum lesions may resolve by themselves, treatment can shorten the infection.

Several effective treatments are available. In most cases, the lumps only require a single treatment, although they may take a couple of weeks to disappear.

At Clinic 275, molluscum contagiosum is treated by cryotherapy (freezing) with liquid nitrogen.

After treatment, the lumps may become irritated, itchy or sore. Bathing in salt water may help relieve these symptoms. Do not scratch any irritated areas after treatment, as this may spread the infection.