



Common Lumps and Bumps in Children

Mastocytoma

What is a mastocytoma?

- Mastocytoma is an uncommon skin lump caused by an excess of a type of white blood cell found in the skin known as mast cells.
- They present as a single or multiple yellow-tan lump often on the arms, neck or trunk. It may be itchy or have no symptoms at all.
- The surface of the lump often has a wrinkled "orange-peel" like appearance and may uncommonly blister.
- Rubbing the lump may cause it to turn red and swell up, resembling an insect bite.



Treatment of mastocytoma

- Mastocytomas are benign and can be left alone. They usually disappear over a few years.
- A skin biopsy may be taken to confirm the diagnosis.
- Oral antihistamines can be taken to control symptoms of itch.

Juvenile Xanthogranuloma

What is a juvenile xanthogranuloma?

- Juvenile xanthogranuloma (JXG) is an uncommon skin lump occurring mainly in infants and young children.
- It is caused by an excess of a type of cell found in the skin known as histiocytes and is benign.
- JXG presents as a firm, round lump in the skin with an orange to yellow colour. They may initially appear reddish.
- These usually occur in the head, neck or upper body region as a single lump but sometimes some patients may have multiple JXG.
- JXG are usually not itchy or painful.
- Rarely, JXG may be found outside the skin in other areas including the eyes, muscles or liver.
- Patients with many JXG may rarely have an increased risk of a type of childhood leukaemia and may need to be regularly monitored.



Treatment of JXG

- JXG usually disappears by itself over a few years and can be left alone if it does not bother the child.
- A skin biopsy may be taken to confirm the diagnosis especially if there are multiple JXG or if the lump is unusual in appearance or changes rapidly in size, shape or colour.

Pilomatricoma

What is a pilomatricoma?

- A pilomatricoma is a benign growth arising from cells forming the hair follicle.
- It presents as a firm-to-hard, flesh-coloured or bluish lump, usually on the head, neck or upper limbs.
- A pilomatricoma usually does not cause any symptoms but it may become red and painful if it becomes inflamed or infected. It may be painful on direct pressure.



Treatment of pilomatricoma

- Pilomatricomas do not usually disappear with time and will either remain the same size or grow slowly.
- A small surgery (punch or excision biopsy) may be performed to completely remove the pilomatricoma. It does not usually recur after being removed.

Useful telephone number

Central Appointments

6294-4050



KK Women's and
Children's Hospital

SingHealth

100 Bukit Timah Road
Singapore 229899
Tel: 6-CALL KKH (6-2255 554)
Fax: 6293-7933
Website: www.kkh.com.sg
www.facebook.com/kkh.sg