



## Molluscum Contagiosum Treated with Cantharidin

### And After Care

Molluscum Contagiosum is a very common infection of the skin caused by a poxvirus call MC1 or MC2. It causes small skin colored to red bumps on the skin. Without treatment these lesions can last up to 3 years. They can become red, scaly and inflamed as the immune systems tries to kill the virus.

Your doctor has recommended that cantharidin be applied to some or all of your child's bumps to help remove them from the skin. The average number of treatments needed to clear the bumps with cantharidin is three.

Cantharidin was first isolated in nature from the blister beetle. It is now synthetically made. When cantharidin, or "beetle juice" is applied to the skin, it causes a superficial blister under the bump where the liquid is applied. This usually occurs 4-6 hours after the cantharidin is placed on the skin in clinic.

**Three to four hours** after the treatment gently remove the bandages. It is often easier to remove the bandages after placing the child in a warm bath. Take a soft wash cloth and gently was off the cantharidin. Do not scrub!

After a while, some kids complain of a "stingy" feeling on the skin where the cantharidin was applied. If the blisters pop and skin stings in the open air, apply a small amount of Vaseline® or Aquaphor® as needed for comfort. It is OK to cover with small bandages if this is comforting to your child.

Give acetaminophen(Tylenol™) or ibrubrofen (Advil™) at the appropriate dose for the age and weight of your child after your appointment, a second dose before bed and a third dose the next morning. Any pain of stinging should be much better after the first 24 hours.

Call 251-289-1786 if there are any questions.