

Let's Talk About...

Pilomatricoma

What is a pilomatricoma?

A **pilomatricoma** [PIE-loh-MAY-tri-KOH-muh], also known as **pilomatrixoma** [PIE-loh-MAY-trik-SOH-muh], is a non-cancerous bump under the skin. It grows in hair follicles, usually on the head or neck of children. However, it can grow anywhere on the body. Usually, only one bump forms at a time but some children may get several at one time or during their lifetime.

What causes it?

The exact cause of pilomatricomas is unknown. Some children have a skin injury or irritation at the site before it actually forms.

What are the signs and symptoms?

Since pilomatricomas are under the skin, they are more easily felt than seen. They feel like a small, hard bump under the skin. The skin over the bump may look normal or it can be purplish or blueish in color. Sometimes, the skin may look red and swollen if it gets irritated. The bumps may feel tender to your child, but they don't usually cause much pain or other problems.

How is it diagnosed?

Your child's healthcare provider can diagnose a pilomatricoma with a physical exam. A **biopsy** [BIE-op-see] can be done to confirm the diagnosis but is often not needed. A biopsy is when a healthcare provider removes some of the skin tissue to have it examined at a lab.



How is it treated?

Pilomatricomas don't usually go away on their own and can slowly grow over time. However, the bumps can be removed with minor surgery. The surgery may leave a small scar.

The decision to remove a pilomatricoma depends on:

- Your child's age
- How well your child can hold still for the procedure
- How much it bothers your child

When should I call my doctor?

Call your child's healthcare provider if a pilomatricoma becomes painful, swollen, red, or increases in size very quickly.

Notes

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