

# What is a pilomatrixoma?

**Pilomatrixoma or pilomatrixoma is a benign (non-cancerous) bump under the skin.**

It usually forms on the head or neck of school-aged children, but can grow anywhere on the body. Typically, only one pilomatrixoma forms at a time. Some people are prone to getting them and may get several at one time or over their lifetime.

## WHAT CAUSES IT?

Pilomatrixomas grow from cells in the hair follicle (where the hair forms). The exact cause of pilomatrixomas is not known. Some people have an injury or irritation at the site before the pilomatrixoma forms.

## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Pilomatrixomas are often more easily felt than seen because they are under the skin. They feel like a small, hard lump (like a pebble) under the skin. The skin over the lump looks normal or can be a purple or blueish color. If the pilomatrixoma becomes irritated, it can appear red or swollen. Pilomatrixomas can be tender to touch, but usually do not cause a lot of pain or other problems.

## HOW IS A PILOMATRICOMA DIAGNOSED?

Your doctor or provider can diagnose a pilomatrixoma with a physical examination. A biopsy can be done to confirm the diagnosis, but is often not needed.

## WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD'S PILOMATRICOMA IS PAINFUL?

Your child should be seen by a provider if the pilomatrixoma becomes painful, red, swollen, or is growing very quickly.

## WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR A PILOMATRICOMA?

Pilomatrixomas do not usually go away on their own. They can slowly grow over time. If needed, pilomatrixomas can be removed with a minor surgery. The surgery leaves a small scar.

### THE DECISION TO REMOVE A PILOMATRICOMA DEPENDS ON:

- » How old your child is
- » How well your child can sit still for a short procedure
- » How much the pilomatrixoma bothers your child



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