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Mastocytoma

What is mastocytoma?

Mastocytoma is the name given to a localised form of [mastocytosis](#). Mastocytosis occurs when there are too many mast cells in the skin. The cause is unknown.

What do they look like?

Mastocytoma usually appears in early childhood at a few months of age. One or more red, pink or yellow lumps, which may vary in size from about one to 5 centimetres in diameter and can appear anywhere on the skin. Rubbing causes mastocytomas to redden and swell for 15 minutes or so. Often there are no symptoms but they may be itchy and sometimes they may blister, especially when rubbed. Occasionally flushing may occur when the mast cells release chemicals such as histamine into the skin.

Mastocytoma



The same lesion after rubbing

If the mastocytoma is causing a lot of itching, this can often be relieved with oral [antihistamines](#). No other treatment is necessary as mastocytomas usually disappear as the child grows older.

Related information

References:

On DermNet NZ:

- [Urticaria pigmentosa](#)
- [Naevi](#) (birthmarks)

Other websites:

- [Mastocytosis](#) - e-medicine dermatology, the online textbook
- [Mastocytosis fact sheet](#) - National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases

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DermNet does not provide an on-line consultation service.

If you have any concerns with your skin or its treatment, see a [dermatologist](#) for advice.

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