

Skin Tags

What are skin tags?

Skin tags are small pouches of normal skin, which protrude from the skin surface on a narrow stalk. They are usually soft, and tend to be flesh colored or slightly pigmented. Occurring singly or in multiples, the most common locations are around the neck, within the armpits or groin area, under the breasts or other truncal areas, and on the eyelids or cheeks. They may be mistaken for moles, warts, or other benign skin growths.

Skin tags may enlarge, and may become irritated by clothing or by daily activities. They can become inflamed or infected, with substantial swelling, pain, and surrounding redness. They may also be cosmetically unacceptable. Most skin tags are not a threat to your health.

How are skin tags treated?

It is important to establish a correct diagnosis, because skin tags, warts, moles or other lesions may require different treatment(s). Clinically benign skin tags can be removed in the office, with the removal technique determined by the size, number, location and your potential for scarring or dyspigmentation (change in color after wound healing). They can be surgically removed or destroyed using electrocautery (electric needle) and cryosurgery (liquid nitrogen treatment) to provide relief from local irritation, as well as smooth and enhance the affected body site.