

Umbilical Granuloma

Definition

- A small red growth found in the navel after the cord falls off
- The navel is also called the belly button or umbilicus

Health Information

Symptoms

- Small round growth in center of navel after the cord falls off.
- It's red and can be on a stalk. Covered with clear mucus.
- Not dry like normal skin.
- If the navel heals slowly, this is usually the cause.

Cause

- A low grade infection of the navel
- Occurs in 1 out of 500 newborns

Care Advice

1. Overview:

- After the cord has fallen off, the navel will gradually heal.
- It's normal for the center to look red at the point of separation. After a week, the navel will be covered by skin cells. The redness should go away.
- It's abnormal if the center red area starts to grow like a berry.
- That's called a granuloma and it needs treatment.
- The treatment is easy and can be done in your doctor's office.
- Here is some care advice that should help.

2. Silver Nitrate Treatment of Granuloma:

- Granulomas need to be treated by putting on a chemical called silver nitrate.
- This can be done in your doctor's office.
- This chemical should turn the pink tissue to gray or black. This will dry up and shrink the granuloma.
- Any chemical stains of the surrounding skin will eventually heal over.
- Leave it exposed to the air. Do not cover it.
- Do not apply any alcohol. Reason: It may remove the silver nitrate.
- Clean off any discharge with a wet cotton swab.

3. Normal Navel Care:

- Keep the navel (belly button) clean and dry.
- Clean the area once per day with warm water and a clean cloth.
- Remove any dried or sticky secretions. It's normal for the navel to ooze some secretions.
- Do this gently to prevent any bleeding.
- Caution: Don't use any rubbing alcohol. Reason: can interfere with healing.

4. **Bathing:**

- After the cord falls off, continue sponge baths for a few more days.
- Help the belly button area dry up.
- Then, tub baths will be fine.

5. **Diapers:**

- Keep the navel dry to help healing.
- To provide air contact, keep the diaper folded down below the navel.

6. **What to Expect:**

- With treatment, the granuloma usually will shrink and go away within 1 week.
- Repeat treatment may be needed if the granuloma continues to grow.

Call Your Doctor If

- Develops a red streak or redness that spreads off the belly button
- Fever occurs
- Cloudy discharge occurs
- You think your child needs to be seen
- Your baby starts to look or act abnormal

Pediatric Care Advice

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