

## What are pearly penile papules?

Pearly penile papules are painless, dome-shaped bumps that usually occur in one or more rows along the corona (the rounded border where the head of the penis meets the shaft). They can be flesh-coloured or white, and can look like small pimples or skin tags.

Pearly penile papules are common types of bumps that occur on the penis, affecting between [1 in 7 to almost half of all men](#).

## Causes of pearly penile papules

We don't know why some men have pearly penile papules while others don't. They are [less common in men who are circumcised](#) than those who are not.

Pearly penile papules usually appear towards the end of puberty and [become less common with aging](#).

## Diagnosis of pearly penile papules

Your doctor will usually diagnose pearly penile papules simply by looking at them or by using a dermatoscope. They may also collect a small skin sample for examination to be sure of the diagnosis.

## Treatment of pearly penile papules

Pearly penile papules don't need treatment because they're a normal part of male anatomy. Even so, some men with pearly penile papules are bothered by them and would [prefer to have them removed](#).

If you're embarrassed by your pearly penile papules, it's possible to have them removed by freezing them with liquid nitrogen or having laser therapy. There's a risk of scarring or a change in skin colour, and it takes about [two weeks for your penis to heal after laser treatment](#).

## Health effects of pearly penile papules

There are no physical health problems associated with pearly penile papules because they're a normal part of some people's anatomy.

Pearly penile papules can cause unnecessary concern for people who have them or for their sexual partners, who may confuse them as a sign of sexually transmitted infection.

## What to do about pearly penile papules

If you're concerned about any lumps, bumps or spots on your penis, it's a good idea to talk to your doctor about it. A quick examination can reassure you there's nothing to worry about and will allow your doctor to rule out anything serious.

**What questions should I ask my doctor about pearly penile papules?**

- Can I talk to you about pearly penile papules?
- Can you please make sure these bumps on my penis are pearly penile papules?
- If I'm really worried about pearly penile papules, what would you recommend I do?

**Medically reviewed by**

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