Umbilical Granuloma

An umbilical granuloma is an extra piece of tissue that stays on your baby's belly button after the umbilical cord falls off. Normally, when the umbilical cord falls off, the area heals and becomes covered with skin.

CAUSES

These extra bits of tissue show up when normal skin fails to grow over the area where the cord was attached. Why this happens is not clear. It may be related to a delay in when the cord falls off. It may be due to a slight infection in the area.

SYMPTOMS

Your baby has a pink or red stalk of tissue in the belly button area. This does not hurt. There may be small amounts of bleeding or oozing. There may be a small amount of redness at the rim of the belly button.

DIAGNOSIS

Your caregiver can make the diagnosis of umbilical granuloma based upon the baby's exam.

TREATMENT

There are several ways to treat an umbilical granuloma:

- A chemical (*silver nitrate*) put on the granuloma
- A special cold liquid (*liquid nitrogen*) to freeze the granuloma.
- The granuloma can be tied tight at the base with surgical thread.

The granuloma has no nerves in it. These treatments do not hurt. Sometimes the treatment needs to be done more than once to get rid of the granuloma.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Change diapers frequently. This prevents the area from getting moist for a long period of time.
- Keep the diaper edge below the belly button.
- If recommended by your caregiver, apply an antibiotic cream or ointment after one of the treatments noted above.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- A lump forms between the belly button and the genitals.
- Cloudy yellow fluid drains from the belly button area.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- A rectal temperature above 100.4° F (38° C).
- There is redness on the skin of the belly (*abdomen*).
- Pus or foul-smelling drainage comes from the belly button.
- Your baby vomits repeatedly.
- The belly is distended or feels hard to the touch.

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