Cyst

A cyst is a sack that forms under the skin or in almost any place in the body. Cysts usually have fluid or material inside. There are many different types of cysts. These include:

- **Sebaceous cysts** - These form in hair follicles under the skin when the drainage gets blocked. They have whitish material inside and can get infected.
- **Ganglion cyst** - After minor injuries, these form around tendons, usually in the wrist and hand. They are filled with a jelly-like material.
- **Breast cyst** - These are benign, non-cancerous lumps that often change in size and tenderness with hormones. Mammography and ultrasound can help make the diagnosis.
- **Knee cyst** - A cyst filled with joint fluid behind the knee is called a Baker's cyst. It is due to injury or arthritis and surgery may be needed. Other areas of the body that form cysts include joints, vagina, cervix, ovaries, kidneys and liver. Treatment depends on the type of cyst, location and size.

The diagnosis of a mass that may be a cyst is usually determined by the history and findings. Sometimes it is possible to use a needle and syringe to empty a cyst of the fluid inside. Surgery to remove a cyst is often not done while the cyst is infected.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- Your cyst shows signs of infection. This may include increased size, tenderness, redness and pain.

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