

What is pyogenic granuloma?

A pyogenic granuloma is a raised growth of blood vessels. It looks like a small, red, soft bump on the skin. It appears on the face or upper part of the body. It can happen at any age, but is never present at birth. It may bleed easily when injured and the bleeding may be hard to stop.

Most often, the diagnosis is made by the primary care provider or a dermatologist during a physical exam. A skin biopsy may be done to confirm the diagnosis.



What causes it?

The exact cause is not known. They may be caused by an injury to the skin, such as a small scratch or insect bite, or they may appear on their own. Your child cannot catch a pyogenic granuloma from another person.

How is it treated?

A pyogenic granuloma will not go away on its own.

- Small ones may be treated with pulsed dye laser. When the laser is used, more than one treatment is often needed.
- Large granulomas are removed by surgery.
- Some need both surgery and the pulsed dye laser.

Most pyogenic granulomas will not come back after they are removed. Some may grow back after treatment.

What do I do if it bleeds?

Hold firm and constant pressure directly on the pyogenic granuloma for 5 to 15 minutes. This should stop the bleeding.

ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has:

- Bleeding that does not stop after 15 minutes of firm, constant pressure.
If this occurs, go to the Emergency Room.
- Special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

This sheet was created to help you care for your child or family member. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.