
Pyogenic Granuloma

A pyogenic granuloma is a small, almost always solitary red-to-purple growth that can occur anywhere on the skin. It is most often seen in children on the hands, arms, or other exposed areas. It can also occur in the mouth or around a nail. Pyogenic granulomas are considered benign vascular (blood vessel-related) growths. They can grow rapidly and often bleed quite easily if traumatized.

What causes it?

The cause of pyogenic granulomas is not known, but some arise in areas of the skin that have been recently traumatized, such as an insect bite or a cut. The majority of pyogenic granulomas, however, occur on normal skin. Occasionally pyogenic granulomas have been associated with medications, such as isotretinoin (Accutane).

How is it treated?

Pyogenic granulomas are usually removed surgically. A local anesthetic is used, and then the raised part of the growth is shaved off or scooped out. Electricity is often used to cauterize the base in order to stop bleeding and to help prevent recurrence. Some pyogenic granulomas can be quite stubborn and will regrow after removal. In these situations, alternative surgical treatments may need to be considered.