
Pediatric Game Changers*: Cantharidin for treatment of facial molluscum contagiosum: A retrospective review



*A game changer is a short narrative stating how an article that originally appeared in *JAAD* changed the game of dermatology. **NOTE:** The Game Changer author is not the original author of the article. Please see the reference section for the original author information.

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Capsule Summary¹:

- This study examined 62 pediatric patients with facial molluscum contagiosum (MC) treated with cantharidin 0.7% solution.
- Less than 20% of the patients developed temporary post-treatment discoloration, and 10% of the patients experienced severe blistering or pain, similar to the previously reported side effect rates with cantharidin use on non-facial sites.
- A remarkable 94% of parents were satisfied with the treatment and would use it again for MC lesions on the face.

How did this article change the practice of dermatology?

- Previously, the use of cantharidin to treat facial MC was considered to be contraindicated by some practitioners due to concerns of adverse reactions in a cosmetically sensitive area.
- This study provides reassurance that cantharidin may be safe to use for facial MC lesions, including patients of color, with particular care taken when applied near the eyes.
- Over 50% of the patients had darker skin types; however, the article does not comment on whether the risk of discoloration was related to background skin type.

Conflicts of interest

None disclosed.

Funding sources: None.

Reprints not available from the authors.

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2021.02.015>

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1. Jahnke MN, Hwang S, Griffith JL, Shwayder T. Cantharidin for treatment of facial molluscum contagiosum: a retrospective review. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2018;78(1):198-200.