

△ GENERAL INFORMATION

Pyogenic granuloma is a lesion found in older children and pregnant women. It can grow just about anywhere in the body but is most often found in the mouth area or on the shoulder. When it first appears, it is no larger than a poppy seed, but it quickly gets larger, sometimes growing to the size of a cranberry.

This lesion contains a lot of blood vessels, giving it a red to dark brown color. It does not come from an infection. It is not malignant and never becomes malignant.

The cause is unknown, but some think it is tied in with hormones, because pyogenic granulomas go away when the pregnancy is over. They often come back again with the next pregnancy, however.

COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- A raised or flat lesion on the lip, cheek, tongue, gum, or skin.
- It does not hurt. It bleeds easily when scratched or picked.

DIAGNOSIS

- Usually, the diagnosis can be made by taking a detailed history and doing a thorough examination of the lesion.

○ TREATMENT

- Most of the time, removal of the lesion is the best treatment.

- Observation usually is best in pregnant women, unless the lesion bleeds too often and is a real nuisance.

□ OPERATION

- This is an outpatient procedure.
- A very fine, short needle is used to inject a local anesthetic around the granuloma. This will make the area completely numb.
- The granuloma is simply cut off. The base of it (still numb) is burned slightly with the fine tip of an electrical instrument to prevent bleeding.
- In some patients, it is better to remove the granuloma through a cosmetic incision.
- A small bandage is applied.

POSTOPERATIVE CARE

- You will be instructed on how to take care of the treated area and how to apply the bandage.
- Pain is minimal and can be controlled with over-the-counter medicine.

☞ CALL OUR OFFICE IF

- There is bleeding from the operated area that doesn't stop after 15 minutes of firm pressure with a piece of gauze.
- The wound becomes red or swollen or is draining any pus.
- You develop a temperature higher than 100°F.
- You have any questions.