Keratosis Pilaris: Symptoms, Diagnosis and Treatment

Improvement often takes months, and the bumps are likely to come back. The condition is generally worse in winter and often clears in the summer. Prescription-strength hydrocortisone cream if inflammation is present. Prescription-strength alpha- or beta-hydroxy acids . A gradual loss of hair in affected facial areas, especially the lateral eyebrows, may be seen in ulerythema ophryogenes .

Age of onset of keratosis pilaris is often within the first decade of life; symptoms particularly intensify during puberty. However, keratosis pilaris may manifest in persons of any age and is common in young children. Some authorities believe individuals can outgrow the disorder by early adulthood, but often this is not the case. Our expert physicians and surgeons provide a full range of dermatologic, reconstructive and aesthetic treatments options at Cleveland Clinic.

Keratosis pilaris is typically more common in babies, toddlers, children and teenagers, and it often worsens around puberty. Glycerin, found in most beauty supply stores, can also soften bumps, while rose water can soothe skin inflammation. Sign up for free, and stay up to date on research advancements, health tips and current health topics, like COVID-19, plus expertise on managing health. Brain tumor, breast cancer, colon cancer, congenital heart disease, heart arrhythmia. Brought to you by Merck & Co, Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA — dedicated to using leading-edge science to save and improve lives around the world.

They can recommend creams or lotion to help your skin. They can also tell you whether you need to see a GP. Keratosis pilaris tends to be prominent in the winter months and is likely due to the reduced moisture content of the air. To prevent scarring or infection, you shouldn't pick at, scratch or try to pop your keratosis pilaris. Worsening of the bumps when the air is drier, like in the winter months.

Several medications that can cause a skin eruption similar to KP include cyclosporine, BRAF inhibitors, and tyrosine kinase inhibitors. On this Wikipedia the language links are at the top of the page across from the article title. Contact your provider if the bumps are bothersome and do not get better with lotions you buy without a prescription.

Some people have so many bumps that they extend onto the forearms or lower legs. Keratosis pilaris lesions are tiny white-to-gray bumps centered in the hair follicle. Sometimes a thin, red ring may surround the white bump, indicating inflammation. In darker skin colors, the red area around the bumps may be harder to see or may appear darker brown. The bumps all look very similar to one another, and they are evenly spaced on the skin's surface.

The condition worsens in the winter and usually clears up in the summer. Keratosis pilaris has no known cause, but tends to run in families. But you can manage it with regular skin care to reduce the bumps and keep skin moisturized. Worldwide, KP affects an estimated 30 to 50% of the adult population, and around 50 to 80% of all adolescents. It is more common in women than in men, and it is often present in otherwise healthy individuals.

In excess, it can extend to the forearms and lower legs. Your healthcare provider will ask about your symptoms and health history. They may also ask about your family's health history. The physical exam will include looking closely at your skin. Often this is all that is needed to make a diagnosis. In rare cases, a piece of skin may be removed and checked under a microscope.