

Abscess

A confined pocket of pus that collects in tissues, organs, or spaces inside the body.

Common

More than 200,000 US cases per year

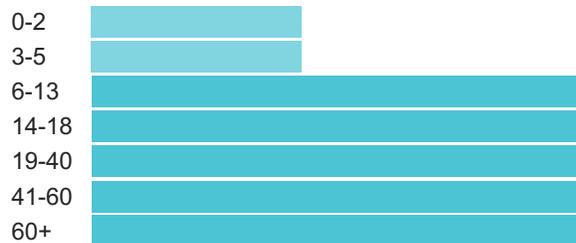
-  Treatable by a medical professional
-  Usually self-diagnosable
-  Lab tests or imaging rarely required
-  Short-term: resolves within days to weeks

When an area in the body becomes infected, the body's immune system sends white blood cells to fight the infection. These cells collect and combine with the damaged tissue and germs, creating liquid called pus.

An abscess is characterized by a painful, swollen lump that's filled with pus.

Treatments include draining the abscess and antibiotics.

Ages affected



Symptoms

Usually self-diagnosable

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People may experience:

Whole body: chills or fever

Skin: pimples or redness

Also common: pus, painful lump, tenderness, swelling, or swollen lymph nodes

Treatments

Treatment consists of procedures

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Medications

Antibiotics: Stops the growth of or kills bacteria.

- Clindamycin (Evoclin, Clindagel, Clindamycin Pediatric, Clin Single Use, and Cleocin in 5 % dextrose)
- Cephalexin (Keflex)
- Sulfamethoxazole / Trimethoprim (Bactrim, Sulfatrim, and Bactrim DS)

Penicillin antibiotic: Stops growth of or kills specific bacteria.

- Amoxicillin / Clavulanic acid (Augmentin, AugmentinXR, and Augmentin ES-600)

Medical procedure

Incision and drainage: Cutting or puncturing the skin to drain an infection such as an abscess or boil.

Removal of unhealthy tissue: Removal of dead, damaged, or infected tissue from wounds to promote healing.

Procedural sedation and analgesia: Giving tranquilizers and painkillers before a painful or unpleasant medical procedure. Although not fully conscious, the person can still breathe on their own.

Specialists

Primary care provider (PCP): Prevents, diagnoses, and treats diseases.

Pediatrician: Provides medical care for infants, children, and teenagers.

Surgeon: Performs operations to treat disease.

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure to contact a healthcare provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.

Sources: Mayo Clinic and others. [Learn more](#)