

Patient Information for Halo nevus - Skin

Overview

A halo nevus is a mole that is surrounded by a circle (or halo) of very light-colored, or depigmented, skin. It is also known as Sutton nevus or perinevoid vitiligo. It is common and is not cancerous. It is usually seen on the back or torso, but it can appear on any body location. More than one halo nevus may be present at the same time.

Sometimes the mole will fade, leaving just a depigmented spot. Sometimes the mole remains as the skin surrounding it repigments.

Who's At Risk

This is most often seen in teenagers. It is believed to be an immune system response to cells that cause skin pigmentation, such as in moles.

Signs & Symptoms

A halo nevus looks like a mole surrounded by a ring of colorless skin. The central mole may be pink, tan, or brown.

Self-Care Guidelines

Since a halo nevus is not cancerous or painful, treatment is not necessary.

When to Seek Medical Care

See your doctor if your mole changes or you note any other changes to your skin, like itching, bleeding, or pain.

Treatments Your Physician May Prescribe

This is a harmless condition. There is no treatment.

Your doctor may examine a tissue sample of the mole if it is irregular or unusual.