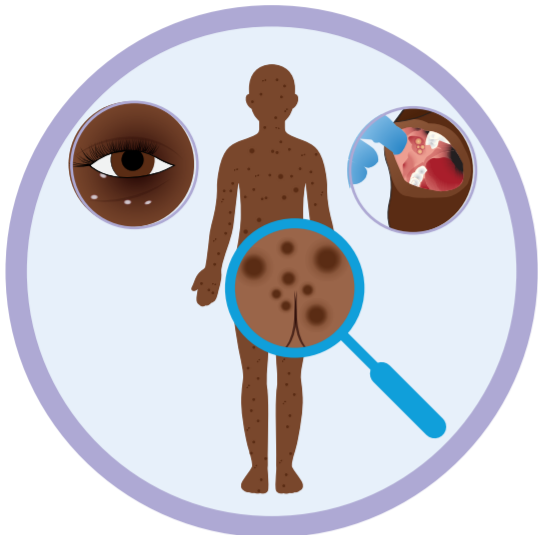


Care of skin lesions in mpox infection

1 Assessment

2 General treatment principles



Conduct a full body skin examination, including mucosas (conjunctiva, oral, rectal and genital regions)



Hand hygiene with soap and water or sanitizer, especially before and after touching lesions or contaminated surfaces (see hand hygiene: [Why, How and When?](#))



As a patient with mpox: avoid touching lesions where possible to reduce autoinoculation



As a health worker: use personal protective equipment (PPE) to be in close contact (e.g. cleaning and dressing) with the lesions of a patient with mpox: gloves, gown, medical mask and eye protection.

3 Non complicated lesions



If lesions are macules, pustules, vesicles: clean the area with water and soap and dry the skin with a clean towel to keep them clean and dry



Cover the lesions with clean dry bandages to reduce the transmission if in close proximity with other people.



If lesions are crusted: use gauze impregnated with petroleum jelly over the lesions



If lesions are Itchy: use emollients or lotions made of calamine mineral over the lesions

4 Complicated lesions



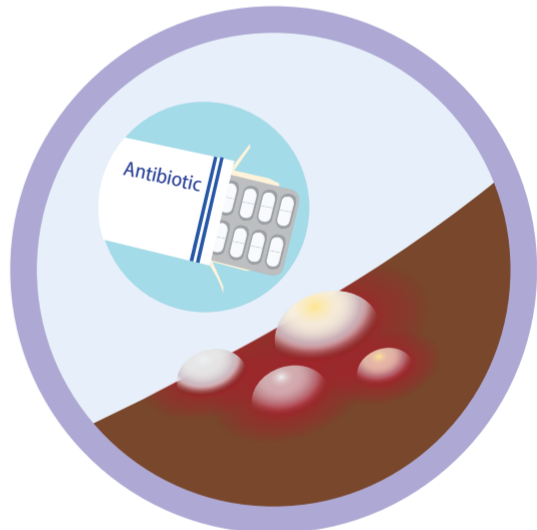
If Oral mucosal lesions: use alcohol-free mouthwash or saline solution to clean the mouth



If mucosal painful lesions: apply topical anaesthetic gel to affected area(s) as needed.



If Eroded/macerated lesions: soak lesions for 20 minutes in a solution of dilute potassium permanganate and clean water to a concentration of 1 in 10,000 or iodine to clean, disinfect and prevent superinfection.



For superinfection of skin lesions: extreme redness, tenderness, pus or extensive disseminated mpox lesions, consult with clinician or Infectious diseases specialist to initiate treatment with antibiotics.

5 Follow up



After healing, there may be some dyspigmentation in affected areas this may resolve in 6-18 months. Sunscreen may prevent further dyspigmentation.

See for further information: www.who.int/teams/health-care-readiness/clinical-management-of-monkeypox
Infection prevention and control and water, sanitation and hygiene measures for home care and isolation for mpox in resource-limited settings: interim operational guide. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2024 (<https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/379477>).

