Keloid

Also called: keloidal scar

A raised scar after an injury has healed.

Very common

More than 3 million US cases per year

- Treatable by a medical professional
- Usually self-diagnosable
- Lab tests or imaging not required
- Chronic: can last for years or be lifelong

A keloid is caused by an excess protein (collagen) in the skin during healing.
Keloids often are lumpy or ridged. The scar rises after an injury or condition has healed, such as a surgical incision or acne.
Keloids aren't harmful and don't need treatment. If a person finds them unattractive, a doctor can sometimes minimize the scars.

Ages affected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-13</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-18</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-40</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-60</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Symptoms

Usually self-diagnosable

Keloids often are lumpy or ridged. The scar rises after an injury or condition has healed, such as a surgical incision or acne.

People may experience:

Skin: lumps, darkening of the skin, swollen blood vessels in the skin, or redness

Also common: itching

Treatments

Treatment consists of steroids

Keloids aren't harmful and don't need treatment. If a person finds them unattractive, a doctor can sometimes minimize the scars.
Self-care
  Silicone gel sheets

Medications
  **Steroid**: Modifies or simulates hormone effects, often to reduce inflammation or for tissue growth and repair.
  - Triamcinolone acetonide

  **Topical anti-tumor medication**: Kills cancer cells on skin.
  - Intralesional 5-Fluorouracil

Medical procedure
  **Freezing**: Using extreme cold during surgery or medical treatment.

Specialists
  **Primary care provider (PCP)**: Prevents, diagnoses, and treats diseases.
  **Pediatrician**: Provides medical care for infants, children, and teenagers.
  **Plastic surgeon**: Reconstructs defective, damaged, or missing body parts.
  **Dermatologist**: Focuses on disorders of skin, nails, and hair.

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 an emergency number immediately.

Sources: Mayo Clinic and others. Learn more