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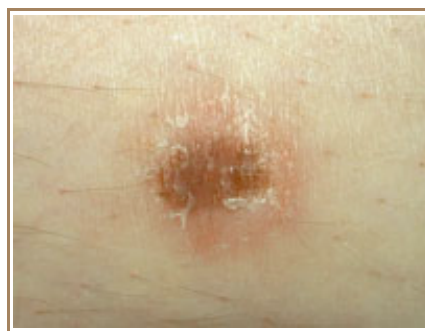
## Meyerson naevus

### What is Meyerson naevus?

Meyerson naevus is a [mole](#) that is surrounded by eczema (an itchy rash also known as [dermatitis](#)). A mole is more properly called a benign melanocytic naevus.

Meyerson first described the condition in 1971 where he reported 2 men with benign melanocytic naevi surrounded by eczema. Meyerson naevus is also referred to as halo dermatitis, halo eczema and Meyerson's phenomenon.

#### Meyerson naevus



### Who gets Meyerson naevus?

Meyerson naevus appears to occur more commonly in young males (average age 30 years). It is nearly three times as common in males compared to females. Meyerson naevi may co-exist with [halo naevi](#). It may also occur in patients with eczema or other atopic conditions (these are asthma and hay fever). However, it most often occurs in healthy individuals without any pre-existing conditions.

### What is the cause of Meyerson naevus?

The cause of Meyerson naevus is not known. [Skin biopsy](#) specimens show inflamed skin rather like that seen in psoriasis and eczema.

Excision of the central mole results in resolution of the eczematous reaction, which suggests the mole is the reason for it. It may be the result of immune cells (CD4+ lymphocytes) reacting against target antigens on the surface of the naevus cells (these are melanocytes).

Factors that have been found to trigger Meyerson naevus include:

- Exposure to ultraviolet radiation (in one case halo dermatitis lesions developed a few weeks after the patient experienced a severe [sunburn](#))
- Interferon-alfa-2b (lesions developed in a patient with [Behcet disease](#) that was treated with this)

### What are the signs and symptoms of Meyerson naevus?

Meyerson naevus usually develops as a single itchy patch, but multiple lesions appearing at the same time have also been reported. Meyerson naevus consists of a centrally positioned naevus that has regular borders and has a uniform colour. This is surrounded by an red, dry or blistered rash that may or may not be itchy. The naevus (mole) in the centre of the halo is rarely cancerous ([melanoma](#)).

Meyerson naevus is sometimes mistaken for a [halo mole](#) (Sutton naevus). The main difference between these two lesions is what happens to the central naevus. The lesion in the centre of a Meyerson naevus never changes or fades away even when the surrounding eczema has resolved. In contrast, the central mole of a halo mole usually fades in colour and eventually disappears altogether.

## What is the treatment of Meyerson naevus?

The eczema around the Meyerson naevus usually resolves by itself within weeks. However, if necessary it can be treated with [topical corticosteroid](#) cream or ointment for a few days or weeks.

The central naevus remains unchanged. Because the naevus is harmless, it does not need to be removed. Surgical [excision](#) may be arranged if there is any concern that the lesion is melanoma, or because the symptoms are a nuisance.

### Related information

#### References:

- Yung A, Goodfield M. An Annular Lesion on the Back. Arch Dermatol 2003; 139: 1209-1214. [Medline](#).
- Brandt O, Christophers E, Folster-Holst R. Halo dermatitis followed by the development of vitiligo associated with Sutton's nevi. J Am Acad Dermatol 2005; 52: S101-4. [Medline](#).
- Nicholls DSH and Mason GH. Halo dermatitis around a melanocytic naevus: Meyerson's naevus. Br J Dermatol 1988; 118: 125-129. [Medline](#).

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