

GRANULOMA ANNULARE (G.A.)

Granuloma annulare is a skin condition consisting of tan or brown bumps in the skin. The name comes from a description of the condition. Granuloma refers to what is seen under the microscope when a test is done from this problem. Annulare refers to the fact that the skin bumps are often shaped in an annular or circular fashion.

Granuloma annulare is only a skin condition. It is not cancer. It is not a sign of any internal problem. It is not serious.

The root cause of granuloma annulare is not known. In some cases it may be a result of an injury to the skin but why these lesions come and go is not known.

Granuloma annulare may occur in patients of all ages. In children it is not uncommon for there to be one single spot shaped in a ring on the arms, neck or hand. In some cases patients may have many smaller spots located in different areas of the skin. It is usually not itchy and is only a problem because of its appearance in the skin.

Although the exact cause of granuloma annulare is not known, it is often possible to use treatment, which helps the condition. This treatment may involve the use of topical creams or at times actual injections into the skin bumps. In order to identify this skin condition, a biopsy test of the skin is often done when you are first seen. This test is done to confirm the diagnosis.

Granuloma annulare can go away completely on its own at times. It does seem to have a life span measured in terms of months or a few years. If you have any other questions concerning this condition, please do not hesitate to ask me.