

BOILS

An infection of hair follicles

Staphylococcal Infection

BOILS

- A common infection involving the hair follicle and surrounding subcutaneous tissue
- Most commonly affect:
 - Face
 - Buttocks
 - Neck
 - Armpit
 - Thighs

SYMPTOMS

- Skin Lesion
 - Small, red, painful nodule
 - May grow rapidly
 - May have yellow/white centre
 - Pus filled skin lesion
 - May ooze and weep, crust later
 - May be single or multiple
 - Pain increases as nodules fills with pus

Symptoms Continued

- Skin Erythema (Redness)
- Occasionally fever
- Occasionally fatigue
- Itching may occur before the development of the skin lesion

Diagnosis & Treatment

- Diagnosis made on clinical evidence
- Treatment often unnecessary as skin lesion will drain and resolve spontaneously
- Lesions lasting in excess of 2 weeks may require treatment
- Especially those on central face or near the spine

Treatment

- Warm, moist compresses may encourage the lesion to drain
- Persistent lesions may require aspiration by a G.P.
- Good hygiene is essential to prevent the spread of infection

Complications

- Spread of infection
- Abscess formation
- Osteomyelitis
- Endocarditis
- Spinal cord abscess/infection
- Brain abscess/infection
- Permanent skin scarring

A Boil On The Face

