



# Heavily crusted lesion

A seven year old girl presents with this lesion which began as a patch of tiny blisters

## Question 1

What is your diagnosis?

## Question 2

What is the cause?

## Question 3

How would you manage this patient?

## Question 4

Is it contagious?



Linda Calabresi

## Answer to last month's Brain teaser

**A 27 year old man presents with an abscess over the sacrococcygeal junction. He had a similar problem over two years ago.**



### Answer 1

Pilonidal sinus is a chronic infection caused by penetration of a foreign body/ hair into the subcutaneous tissues. The sinus is lined by granulation tissue, and it often leads to a cavity filled with granulation tissue and hair. If the sinus closes temporarily, a pilonidal cyst remains in the deeper tissues and acute

exacerbation of the chronic infection produces a pilonidal abscess. Most patients are young hirsute males. Sedentary occupations and constant mild trauma to the sacral area (eg. driving a truck) are contributing factors.

### Answer 2

Drainage of an acute abscess, usually under local anesthesia. It may be possible to curette the cavity to remove the hair, thereby accomplishing definitive treatment at the same time. In patients with recurrent conditions excision and primary closure is the preferred treatment.

### Answer 3

Anorectal fistulae, perianal hidradenitis, osteomyelitis, simple furuncles or carbuncles.

### Answer 4

Malignancy has been reported in chronic pilonidal sinuses.

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Send your answers to arrive by 5 September. A voucher for medical books or medical equipment to the value of \$100 will be awarded for the first correct entry drawn. The winner will be notified by mail and the answer published in the September 2002 issue.

Address entries to:  
**August Brain Teaser,  
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1 Palmerston Crescent,  
South Melbourne,  
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The winner of the June Brain Teaser is Dr Ling Lan, Stafford Heights Qld.