

## **SKIN TAGS**

### **What are skin tags?**

- ✓ Skin tags are benign overgrowths of normal skin
- ✓ The medical name for skin tags are acrochordons

### **What causes skin tags?**

- ✓ An inherited tendency to have this feature
- ✓ A genetic syndrome that has preauricular pits or tags as one feature
- ✓ A sinus tract problem (an abnormal connection between the skin and tissue underneath)
- ✓ A sign that one kidney is bigger than the other (a renal scan can be done to rule out this possibility)

### **Are skin tags harmful?**

- ✓ Skin tags on the ears are very common in newborns
- ✓ Skin tags are usually harmless but children with skin tags on the ear are more at risk for hearing problems
- ✓ Infants with preauricular skin tags have an 8 out of 1000 chance of having hearing impairments, compared with infants without tags having a 1.5 out of 1000 chance.

### **How are skin tags removed?**

- ✓ Skin tags are usually removed by physicians but individuals have known to remove skin tags at home
- ✓ However, it is recommended for infants and children that skin tags be removed by physicians
- ✓ One method of removing a skin tag is by the physician tying a string around the base of the skin tag or tags, tight enough that it will not fall off but loose enough that it will not injure the skin
- ✓ This cuts off the blood supply to the skin tag and eventually it falls off. This process can take up to 1 to 2 weeks
- ✓ Skin tags can also be removed by freezing (using liquid nitrogen), and burning using medical electric cautery at the physician's office. Lidocaine is usually applied initially to prevent pain for the infant.