

A close-up photograph of two hands clapping. The hands are positioned vertically, with the palms facing each other and fingers pointing upwards. The skin is a light brown color. The person is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt with elasticated cuffs. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

**Carbuncle**

# Carbuncles

- **Definition:** A carbuncle is a cluster of boils that have multiple pus “heads.” They’re tender and painful, and cause a severe infection which could leave a scar.
- A carbuncle is also called a staph skin infection.
- Boils: A boil, also called a furuncle, begins as a painful infection of a single hair follicle. Boils can grow to be larger than a golf ball.
- So carbuncle is multiple fruncle.

## Causes of Carbuncle

Carbuncle skin infection is caused by the bacteria staphylococcus, streptococcus pyogenes, and methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus. These bacteria enter the skin by piercing through hair follicles. Carbuncle is highly contagious therefore, it can spread easily to other parts of the body and can affect other people. A lump formed due to carbuncle is filled with fluid, pus, and dead tissue. People with dermatitis, diabetes, and weak immune system are at greater risk of developing staph infections as their body cannot defend bacteria for longer periods. Sometimes poor hygiene and a cut from clothing or shaving can also cause carbuncle.

# What Are the Risk Factors for Developing a Carbuncle?

Being in close contact with someone who has a carbuncle increases your chances of developing one. The following factors also increase the risk of developing a carbuncle:

- poor hygiene
- diabetes
- a weak immune system
- dermatitis
- kidney disease
- liver disease
- shaving and other activities that break the skin

• ADVERTISEMENT



# Symptoms

A general symptom of Carbuncle is formation of red boil under your skin. A carbuncle can range from a size of a pea to the size of half grown onion. Other symptoms of carbuncle may include:

- Fatigue
- Fever
- Irritation
- Swelling
- Itching
- Pain around the affected area
- Spreading of lump to other skin areas

# Carbuncle

Carbuncles usually must drain before they will heal. This most often occurs on its own in less than two weeks.

Treatment is needed if the carbuncle lasts longer than two weeks.

Treatment is with antistaphylococcal antibiotics eg, flucloxacillin with desloughing and adequate drainage of the abscesses if necessary.



# Management

## Surgical

- Incision and drainage for furuncle, carbuncle and abscess

## Warm compress

- Compress with water 30mins , 4x dally

## Systemic anti microbial Therapy

- Appropriate antibiotic treatment until all lesions resolved.
- MSSA → Penicillin( V/G/ Benzathine),
- MRSA → Cloxacillin , oxacillin, amoxicillin/ clavulanic acid

## Topical Therapy

- Shower with povidone iodine soap or benzoyl peroxide
- Mupirocin ointment