

Video transcript: Know your enemy - Abscess

Hi, welcome to another Museum of Human Disease “Know Your Enemy” video.

An abscess is a collection of pus built up somewhere in the human body. For example, in this specimen you can see a build-up of pus here and here.

Abscesses are most commonly caused by a bacterial infection and can present as a pus-filled cavity at or near the site of infection. This pus builds up as a result of the human immune response, and is typically a white/yellow, occasionally green, thick protein-rich fluid, formed from dead white blood cells.