

What You Should Know About Anal Warts

WHAT ARE ANAL WARTS?

Anal warts are a viral infection. They first appear as tiny blemishes, as small as the head of a pin, and may grow larger than the size of a pea.

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Anal warts are caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV). This highly contagious virus is transmitted person to person, almost always by direct contact. A recent study reported up to 2/3rds of college students have been exposed to it.

DO WARTS NEED TO BE REMOVED?

Yes. If they are not removed, the warts grow larger and become more numerous. Warts can become cancerous if left untreated.

WHAT TREATMENTS ARE AVAILABLE?

1. Medication applied by you at home
2. Chemical/Cryo destruction in the office
3. Removal in the Operating Room

1. Home treatment:

Apply medicated cream to skin and warts around anus at night. These creams can be very irritating. Wash it off in the morning.

Apply: **Aldara** **Effudex**

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday
Friday Saturday Sunday

For _____ weeks

2. Office Removal:

3. Excision in the Operating Room:

Extensive warts around the anus, or warts inside the anal canal require removal in the Operating Room. It is not uncommon to have the warts grow back, requiring follow-up removal in the operating room.

WILL A SINGLE TREATMENT CURE WARTS?

Some patients will continue to develop new warts even after initial treatment. This occurs because the virus can lie dormant in tissues that appear normal before growing into an obvious lesion.

As new warts manifest, they can usually be treated in the physician's office, using either a chemical solution or cryotherapy. Many patients can begin home treatment.

If new warts develop rapidly, further outpatient procedures may be recommended.

Follow-up visits are necessary for some months after the last wart is observed to be certain that all warts are destroyed.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO AVOID RECURRENCE?

Tips to avoid recurrence and re-infection:

- Abstain from sexual activity until cleared by your physicians.
- Continue observation for several months after the last wart has been spotted.
- Sexual partners should be notified and checked.

HPV virus is known to be highly contagious. It can lie dormant for years, and then present itself 'out of the blue'. You can be in a stable relationship, and have this happen. Be sure your partner reads this form. Be sure sexual partners are checked.

You must abstain from sexual activity until the warts are cleared. They can be given to your sexual partners.

It is not uncommon for one sexual partner to be treated, only to get re-infected by their untreated partner.

Return for exam in _____ weeks

- Re-evaluation
 Colonoscopy

- Flexible Sigmoidoscopy
 Follow-up only if symptoms persist

This fact sheet is for use by physicians only and is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. All specific medical questions or concerns should be presented to your own healthcare provider.