

Patient information on Wart Treatment

1. Liquid Nitrogen: This is an extremely cold liquid which the doctor applies (usually with an open spray) at the office every 2-3 weeks.
 - A. What to expect:

It causes a cold burn to the skin. The treatment may cause a blister or turn into a scab which falls off in one or two week. Small amount of bleeding into the lesion can also occur.
You may experience some discomfort during and after treatment. In general, it will lasts for 2 days.
 - B. What is the after care:

You should avoid any strenuous activity which will put pressure on treated areas. Regular Tylenol can be used for pain relief if required. You can continue with normal washing.
 - C. What to do if there is a blister:

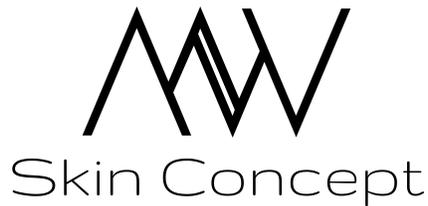
If the blister is small, you do not need to do anything different. If the blister opens up, you should cover them with a bandaid or a gauze. If the blister is very large and uncomfortable, it is best for it too punctured with a sterile needle. This can be done by a nurse or a doctor.

2. Salicylic Acid Ointment:
 - A. How to apply: This should be applied daily to the wart with a Q tip after shower. A bandaid should be used to prevent spreading of the ointment to normal skin. Excess ointment can be washed off in the morning.
 - B. What to expect:

The ointment will make the wart white and soft. You can then peel off the treated skin easily.
 - C. Where to apply the treatment:

You may NOT apply this treatment to any areas other than your hands and feet.
 - D. When to stop treatment:

You should stop treatment if you have pain due to the treatment or if the white area is much bigger than the wart.
Stop treatment and check after 1 month of application whether the wart is resolved. Skin lines should not be interrupted if it is, repeat the treatment for a further month if dermatologist has advised you to do so.



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1. **Canthrone or Canthrone Plus**
This is a chemical that is applied by the doctor in the office. It causes separation of the upper layer of skin and therefore may help to shed the virus. The treated area is covered with a bandaid and the treatment needs to be covered for 4 hours. Within one or two days, blisters may form and may cause mild discomfort. If the blisters open, you should cover them with a bandaid or a gauze. Canthrone plus should only be used in the soles.
2. **Podofilm**
This is a solution that the doctor applies at the office every 2-3 weeks for genital warts. It contains a toxin which stop affected skin cells from dividing, therefore stop the virus from multiplying. Repeat treatment is often required. The treatment should be washed off in 4 hours.
3. **Zyclara/Vyloma/Aldara**
This is an anti-viral cream which also boost the local immune system in your skin. This is useful for thin warts and genital warts. This is expensive but will normally be covered by a private drug plan. The treatment is used once a day for 6 weeks or less frequent in the genital areas. The treated area will become itchy, red and scabby. This usually means the cream is working. If the reaction is severe, stop the medication and ask your doctor for help.
4. **Veregan**
This is a plant extract which helps boost the immune system in the skin. It can be used for thin warts and genital warts. The treatment can be used three times a week for up to 16 weeks.
5. **Electrofulgation**
This is the vaporizing of wart tissue with a cautery machine. Primarily used for plantar warts.

6. **Surgical removal by curettage or excision**

Your doctor may discuss several treatment options, which will be helpful in your case. The effectiveness of these treatments have not been directly compared except in the case of salicylic acid vs cryotherapy. You can expect a success rate of 60-70%. However, there are some warts which are more resistant to treatments, e.g. mosaic wart, plane warts, peri-ungual wart (warts around the nails).

The treatment may result in permanent scarring in the skin or in the nails, lighter pigmentation or darker pigmentation. Recurrence is common especially with genital warts. Electrofulgation, CO₂ Laser and Surgical removal can also cause hypertrophic or keloid scars.

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