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WARTS



1. What are warts?

Warts are skin growths which are non-cancerous and are caused by viral infection in the top layer of skin. They are caused by human papilloma virus or HPV. Warts are usually rough and skin colored but skin is dark, flat and rough.

2. What are the types of warts?

There are many different types of warts including:

- Common warts
- Plantar warts
- Flat warts.
- Genital warts.

Common warts -usually grow on fingers and hands. They are more common in broken skin and often called as seed warts because the blood vessels to warts produce blood clots that look like seeds.

Plantar Warts- are common warts located on the soles of feet. When small plantar warts grow in clusters they are called mosaic warts. Plantar warts can be painful and difficult to treat.

Flat warts- are smaller and not so rough. They can grow in large number and can occur anywhere but most commonly seen on face.

Genital warts- are usually sexually transmitted and spread from close physical contact and repeated exposure.

3. How are warts caused?

Warts are caused by HPV. There are more than 100 type of HPV. Warts issue pass form person to person. One can also get warts virus indirectly by touching a towel or object used by someone who has this virus. Warts can also spread to other places in the same person.

4. How come some people get warts and others don't?

Each person's immune system responds to the HPV virus differently, so not everyone who comes in contact with HPV develops warts.

5. Do warts need to be treated?

Many times warts can disappear without treatment for a period of months to years. However when they become bothersome, painful or multiply rapidly they should be treated.

6. How are warts treated?

Many types of treatments are available depending upon the age of patient, the location of warts and type of warts.

Usual therapies are:

- Salicylic acid solution
- Imiquimod
- Freezing (cryotherapy)
- Electro surgery / Radio surgery.
- Laser treatment.