

Various procedural treatments used to treat Warts include:

- **Cryotherapy:** Works by freezing the wart using liquid nitrogen kept in a can and can be applied directly or through a nozzle.
- **Radiofrequency cautery:** It uses energy to physically destroy the infected cells.
- **Lasers:** Lasers such as Carbon Dioxide Laser can be used to destroy Wart.
- **Surgical excision:** Surgery is not routinely advised for Warts but can be considered for large sized lesions and when other forms of treatment are not feasible.

8. Can Warts be cured?

- Warts can be cured. There are chances that they may recur after a course of treatment, but eventually they respond to treatment.

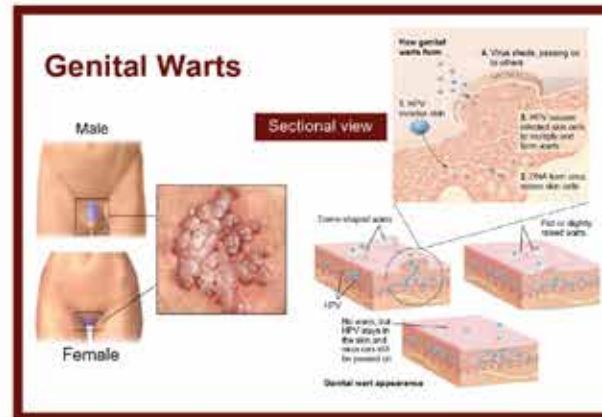
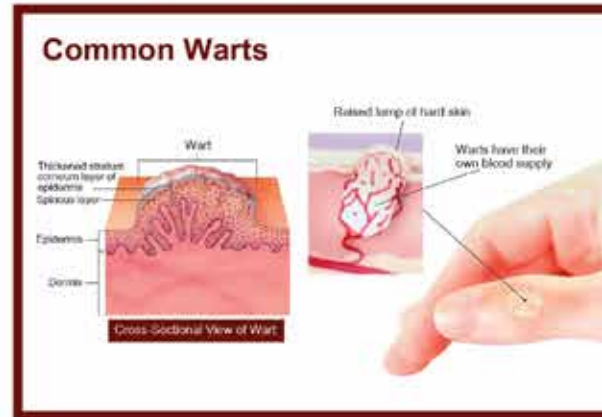
9. Are there any major risk associated with Wart apart from cosmetic disfigurement?

- Warts of very large size that remain untreated for a long time and genital Wart can lead to cancer of the skin and genitalia.
- Warts over the genitalia are highly contagious. Partners should practice safe sex methods such as using condoms.
- Sometimes blood tests are needed in case of genital Warts to rule out concurrent sexually transmitted infections including HIV.

10. Is there any way to prevent Wart?

- Recombinant Human Papillomavirus Vaccine is a vaccine designed to prevent cervical cancer and genital Wart but it does not prevent common Warts.

Illustrative representation:



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Web link to Patient Information Leaflet:
[www.iadvl.org / patient information leaflet](http://www.iadvl.org/patient-information-leaflet)



WARTS

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF DERMATOLOGISTS,
 VENEREOLOGISTS AND LEPROLOGISTS

- What is a Wart?
- How can one get Warts?
- How can the infection spread? Is it transmissible to family members or contacts?
- How does the Wart appear?
- What should one do if he/she gets Warts?
- Are there any tests to confirm the diagnosis of Warts?
- How can Warts be treated?
- Can Warts be cured?
- Are there any major risk associated with Wart apart from cosmetic disfigurement?
- Is there any way to prevent Wart?

1. What is a Wart?

- A Wart is a small rough growth on the skin resembling a cauliflower. Occasionally it can be smooth and plane also.
- It is caused by a virus named Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).



2. How can one get Warts?

- The virus usually enters the body through areas of broken skin and spreads from person to person by direct touch or by touching objects used by the infected person.
- Within the body of the affected person, it can spread from one body site to another.
- Can spread by sharing shaving kits at salons and after beauty parlor activities.

3. How can the infection spread? Is it transmissible to family members or contacts?

- It can spread by direct skin to skin touch or by sharing of objects and thereby can be transmitted to family members or close contacts.
- Sexual transmission can occur (genital Warts).

4. How does the Wart appear?

Warts vary in their appearance as per their types and site they affect. These include:

- **Common Wart:** Small localized swellings over the skin surface that have a roughened uneven surface and can occur anywhere including the face, hands, body and scalp.
- **Flat Wart:** Occur as small, smooth-surfaced, skin coloured projections usually numerous in number.
- **Filiform Wart:** Appears as a slender finger like projection, usually over the face.
- **Genital Wart:** Common warts that appear over the genitals in both males and females. However, they appear more whitish and glistening than the common Warts.
- **Periungual Wart:** A variant that occurs as a small cluster of Warts with roughened cauliflower like surface around the nails.
- **Plantar Wart:** Appears as a small whitish projection on the foot with minute black dots at the centre. It is painful, particularly when present over pressure bearing areas of the sole.
- **Mosaic Wart:** A group of tightly clustered plantar-type Warts, commonly on the hands or soles of the feet.



5. What should one do if he/she gets Warts?

- One should consult a doctor qualified in treating Warts i.e. a Dermatologist.

6. Are there any tests to confirm the diagnosis of Warts?

- A dermatologist can easily confirm the diagnosis based on the appearance of skin lesions. No laboratory tests are usually needed for diagnosis.
- Rarely, when the diagnosis is less certain, the doctor may do a skin biopsy, and examine them under a microscope to confirm the diagnosis.

7. How can Warts be treated?

- Warts can be treated by both medical and procedural treatments.

Various topical medications (that can be applied onto the surface of the Wart) include:

- **Salicylic acid:** They come in both ointments and lotions. They are usually prescribed in higher concentrations and work by keratolysis i.e. dissolving the upper layers of the skin.
- **Lactic acid:** This is another chemical substance that is usually used in combination with salicylic acid.
- **Imiquimod:** This is a cream that comes in sachet. It should be applied overnight, three times a week.
- **Podophyllotoxin:** It is usually used for genital warts and applied by a trained dermatologist.
- **5-Fluorouracil:** It is not commonly used, may be used in difficult cases.