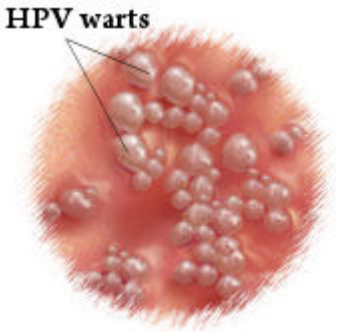
Genital Warts

Genital warts are caused by a virus (*human papillomavirus, HPV*). This is spread by having unprotected sex (*intercourse*) with an infected person. It can be spread by vaginal, anal, and oral sex. A person who is infected might not show any signs or problems (*symptoms*). If you do have problems, they can include itching, warts that bleed, or pain during sex.



TREATMENT

Warts can be removed by:
- Chemicals.
- Freezing.
- Lasers.
- Burning.
- Surgery.

HOME CARE

- Follow your doctor's instructions.
- **Do not** use medicine that is meant for hand warts. Only use medicine as told by your doctor. Ask your doctor before using anti-itch creams.
- Tell your past and current sex partner(s) that you have genital warts. They may need treatment.
- Avoid sexual contact while you are being treated.
- Use a condom during sex. This virus is hard to wipe out. You may always be at risk for spreading the infection to others (*contagious*).
- **Do not** touch or scratch the warts. You could spread it to other parts of your body.
- Women with genital warts should have a cervical cancer check (*pap smear*) at least once a year.
- Tell your doctor if you become pregnant. The virus can be passed to the baby.
- Ask your doctor about HPV shots (*vaccination*).
- Have only 1 sex partner. You should be your partner's only sexual contact.

GET HELP IF:

- The treated skin becomes red, puffy (*swollen*), or painful.
- You have a temperature by mouth above 102° F (38.9° C).
- You feel generally ill.
- You feel little lumps in and around your genital area.
- You are bleeding or have pain during sex.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

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