Warts (Verrucae Vulgaris)

Warts are a common viral infection. They are caused by the human papillomavirus. They are most common in older children and infrequent in the elderly. Warts may be single or multiple and location and size varies. They can be spread by scratching the wart and then scratching normal skin. The life cycle of warts varies. However, most will disappear over many months to a couple years.

DIAGNOSIS

Warts are most commonly diagnosed by their appearance. Samples for lab testing (*biopsies*) are not required unless the wart looks abnormal. Most warts are rough surfaced, round or irregular, light yellow, brown or gray nodules. They are generally less than 1/2 inch (1.3 cm) in size.

TREATMENT

- Ignoring.
- Freezing.
- High heat (*cautery*).
- Laser surgery.
- Application of various irritants and solutions.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Follow home care procedures as directed by your caregiver. No special precautions are necessary. Treatment may often be followed with a return (*recurrence*) of warts.

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