

# Warts

(*verrucae*)



## Background:

- Caused by a virus – **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**
- Transmitted by direct contact, autoinoculation, and fomites
- Genital warts also transmitted perinatally and by sexual contact
- Majority self-resolve within 1-2 years

## Types of warts:

Common warts – rough papules with black dots (thrombosed capillaries) beneath surface

Plantar warts – similar to common warts, on plantar surface, often flat, can be painful

Flat warts – small, skin colored, slightly raised, not rough, usually on hands or face

Genital warts – moist, fleshy, papillomatous, sometimes cauliflower-like, 90% preventable with HPV vaccine

## Treatment: At home (*non-genital*)

- Topical salicylic acid
  - ✓ Higher % for thicker skin (e.g. 27-40% for palms and soles)
  - ✓ Soak wart, rub down with pumice stone, apply medicine, cover (e.g. duct tape)
  - ✓ Apply daily

## Treatment: At doctor's office (*non-genital*)

- Topical liquid nitrogen – freezes wart, stings, causes blister, repeat in weeks to months
- Topical cantharidin – causes blister, repeat in weeks to months – may lead to ring wart
- Topical tretinoin or imiquimod – for flat warts or warts on face, causes irritation, apply daily