



All About Children Pediatric Partners, PC

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Warts: What You Need to Know

Warts are caused by a viral infection in the skin. The human papilloma virus causes most of the warts we see: plantar, genital, periungual (on the fingers), and flat warts on other parts of the body. Molluscum contagiosum is caused by pox virus. These warts are small, but in children they can spread quickly. Untreated, they can take years to resolve. With some help below (and patience), we can cut that down to months, sometimes weeks.

Treatment

Apply Compound W liquid or Duofilm or wart freezing liquid from the drug store daily, scraping off the dead skin before reapplying. Hold treatment if bleeding or significant redness occurs.

Alternatively, apply a piece of duct tape over warts at bedtime. Remove in the morning and scrape off the dead skin. Continue for two months or until warts resolve and the black dots in the center are gone.. After bathing or soaking, gently debride (rub off loose skin) warts with an emery board or pumice stone at least once per week.

Other alternatives your doctor may discuss:

Liquid nitrogen (freezing) -- our preferred in office treatment

Tagamet (cimetidine) -- for warts lasting over a year

Aldara (imiquimod) -- for genital and other stubborn warts

Retin A (usually used for acne) -- sometimes helps molluscum

Referral to dermatology or podiatry. Other burning chemicals, electrodesiccation, or laser therapies may be considered.