

WARTS

What are warts and how do I get them?

Warts are common growths that are caused by the Human Papilloma Virus. This virus is present in the growths as well as on many surfaces touched by our hands and feet. Frequent touching and picking of warts may cause them to spread. Although some people may have a natural resistance to warts, it is advisable to avoid direct contact with warts on other people, and to wear foot protection such as sandals or rubber thongs in places where others go barefoot. Warts may develop on any part of the body including the face, scalp, lip, nose and genital area, as well as on the hands, feet, elbows, and knees.

Treatment:

Many warts go away without medical treatment because the body's immune system destroys them from the inside. There are many treatments for warts because there is no single, best therapy. Since no medicine exists which actually kills the wart virus, most warts are removed by destroying the skin that is infected with the virus.

This can be done with by freezing with liquid nitrogen, with chemicals applied to the warts, or with laser surgery. Sometimes a drug is actually injected into some of the warts in order to remove them. Immunotherapy with squaric acid is used to encourage the body's immune system to attack the wart is another option. The specific treatment used on a wart depends on its size, location, and other factors.

Warts typically require several treatments over the course of six to twelve months to achieve resolution. Even then, a wart may return in the same spot weeks or months after it appears to have been cured. Also, new warts may form while existing ones are being successfully treated. When one method of treatment does not seem to be working or is not well tolerated, a different treatment can be used.