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Genital warts (condyloma)

Sources: www.sundhed.dk

<https://www.sundhed.dk/borger/patienthaandbogen/sexsygdomme/sygdomme/virusinfektioner/koen-svorter-kondylomer/>

Facts

- Genital warts are stalked or cauliflower-like warts that sit on the area around the outer genitals or rectum

Genital warts (condyloma) are a sexually transmitted disease caused by human papillomavirus (HPV)

- 70-80% of sexually active people will at some point be infected with HPV. You can be infected with HPV even if you do not have any visible genital warts
- Condoms prevent genital warts to some extent
- HPV vaccination effectively protects against getting genital warts. The vaccine should be given before having sex for the first time
- If you have changing partners, you should use a condom as extra protection against genital warts and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- Genital warts can be treated with medicine, cream or ointment. Large genital warts and genital warts that are difficult to treat, the doctor can either freeze, cut or burn away

What are genital warts (condyloma)?

Genital warts are stalked or cauliflower-like warts. The warts sit on the area around the outer genitals or rectum. Genital warts are called condyloma in technical language.

The genital warts can also be found in the rectum, in the urethra, vagina or on the cervix.

In men, genital warts are most commonly seen on the foreskin and shaft of the penis and in women on the outer labia. In rare cases, genital warts can be seen on the lip, tongue or in the mucous membrane of the mouth.

What are the symptoms of genital warts?

Visible warts on the genitals, most often without any other symptoms

- The genital warts can be completely smooth on the surface or cauliflower-shaped, which can be few or many, they can also be stalked
- The genital warts can bother if they get big

What symptoms should you pay special attention to?

New warts or bumps on the genitals or around the rectum.

How is the diagnosis made?

The doctor can make the diagnosis simply by looking at the warts. If the doctor is in doubt about the diagnosis, it may be necessary to take a tissue sample.

Why do you get genital warts?

Genital warts are caused by an infection of the skin with a virus called Human Papillomavirus (abbreviated HPV).



HPV stimulates the skin's surface cells to divide, causing warts to thicken in the skin. The time from the time the virus is transmitted until the symptoms appear is often between 1-6 months, but it can also be longer.

HPV is transmitted through sexual contact. 70% of the partners of people with genital warts also have genital warts.

Genital warts in the rectum can occur after anal sex, but can also occur without this having been the case.

Internal condylomas can be detected by gynecological examination or by an anoscopy. An anoscopy is an examination in which the doctor inserts a small rigid tube into the rectum to look at the mucous membrane. Also, a smear "cell sample from the cervix can detect HPV infection.

What treatment is there?

Condom

- You can to some extent prevent genital warts by using a condom when having sex. However, the virus is transmitted by close skin-to-skin contact, and can therefore also be transmitted outside the protection of the condom
- Viruses can also be transmitted from fingers to genitals

Medicine

The preparation podophyllotoxin is used as medical treatment. This drug inhibits cell division in the skin cells, and by using this the condylomas will gradually disappear

- You can brush the fabric on the condyloma yourself morning and evening for 3 days. Then you have to take a break for 4 days, and then possibly repeat the treatment

Pregnant women should not use podophyllotoxin

Cream

- There is also a cream that works on the genital warts. The cream contains the substance imiquimod
- Apply the cream in the evening at bedtime 3 times a week
- The preparation contains oil which can soften and thereby weaken the effectiveness of condoms and diaphragms, and one should not have sex while the cream is on the skin. The cream is washed off after 6-10 hours
- You can repeat the treatment for up to 4 months

Second treatment

- Large genital warts and genital warts that are difficult to treat, the doctor can either freeze, cut or burn away.

All treatments have side effects. The skin may become irritated and sores may appear.

If one treatment does not help, switch to one of the other treatments. Regardless of which treatment you choose, after the disappearance of genital warts, there will be a significant risk that they will return after weeks and months.

How do I avoid getting or worsening genital warts?

Condoms protect to some extent against getting genital warts. The HPV vaccine included in the childhood vaccination program protects against genital warts.

How does the disease develop?



Genital warts will have a great tendency to disappear on their own, but it can take several years. The effect of the treatments varies. No treatment is better than the other treatments.

Whichever treatment you choose, there is a high risk that the genital warts will come back. This is because areas near the genital warts are often simultaneously infected with HPV and can therefore produce new genital warts.

Are genital warts dangerous?

Genital warts is predominantly charred by HPV types 6 and 11, which are not associated with cancer.

How common are genital warts?

- Genital warts are a frequent infection. Approx. 1% of sexually active men and women aged 18-49 years have visible genital warts. About 10% of all people will get genital warts at some point in their lives
- 70-80% of sexually active people will be infected with human papillomavirus (HPV) at some point in their lives. The vast majority, however, do not develop genital warts