



GENITAL WARTS (HPV)

Genital warts, also called Condylomata (pronounced kon-dill-o-ma-ta) are growths on or around the genitals or anal area in both males and females. They are caused by a virus called the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). You can be infected with HPV without knowing it. Sometimes the virus is deep inside the vagina. This virus can be very serious because it

can lead to cancer of the cervix in women. The Pap test (a sample of cells from the cervix) is a good way for women to find out if they have any problems due to HPV. HPV can spread to others through sexual contact.

The symptoms and signs

Genital warts appear between two weeks and eight months after contact with an infected partner. They can sometimes resemble a small cauliflower or they may be flat and hard to see. They grow on moist areas such as the penis, the vagina or anus. The warts only

hurt if they have been irritated.

Some people may have no signs of the warts and may infect others without knowing. It is rare, but possible, that warts may appear on the lips or in the mouth after oral sex with an infected person.

How genital warts are treated

If you notice genital warts, you should see a doctor or go to a clinic. You will need to be checked for warts inside the vagina, around the anus, or on the penis. The doctor will apply



medication to the warts if you want to get rid of them. The doctor may also give you medication that you apply to your warts yourself.



If you have any questions or problems about STDs, contact your local CLSC

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