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FACT SHEET ON GENITAL WARTS

Condylomas are warts which usually appear on the outside of the vagina and/or anal area. They may also be found inside the vagina, on the cervix (opening to the uterus), on the buttocks or around the pubic hair area. A man may develop condylomas on the shaft of his penis.

Venereal warts may be caused by a virus, like other warts, but you can also get or give them through sexual contact.

If you notice small bumps on or around the vaginal area, it is important to have a medical examiner check them so you can be treated. It is also important for your partner to be examined for possible treatment.

TREATMENT:

If the bumps are small and there are not many of them, the warts can be removed with a medication in a doctor's office. You may need more than one visit to get rid of them completely. They can also reappear at a later date.

1. A medication called Podophylin will be painted directly onto each wart.
2. Wash the medication off the warts with soap and warm water within 4 hours after treatment. Be sure to rinse well.
3. During the 12 hours after the medication is applied, you may feel a burning sensation. If the burning is severe, call your doctor.
4. Be sure that you keep follow-up appointments to have the warts checked. Sometimes more than one treatment of the Podophylin will be needed to get rid of the warts.
5. The most effective way to make sure you do not give the warts to your partner is to stop having sex until treatments are over and your warts are gone. The second most effective way is to use a condom (rubber) during sex.

---Helpful hints you can use to aid in preventing the warts from returning:

1. Wash the outside genital area two times a day with a germicidal soap, such as Dial, Zest, or Phisoderm. Rinse the soap off WELL.
2. It is very important to keep the area dry. Dusting the area with cornstarch will help.

SPECIAL NOTE: It is important for a pregnant woman who plans to deliver her baby to discuss condylema with her doctor.