



Better2Know

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HPV and Genital Warts Fact Sheet

What is HPV (Genital Warts)?

HPV is the Human Papilloma Virus. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted virus. There are over 100 types of HPV. Around 40 are thought to be transmitted sexually; 14 of these are of High Risk and linked to cancer.

HPV is the most common cause of cervical cancer in women, and is linked to other cancers in both men and women. It also causes most genital warts. The HPV types which cause genital warts are regarded as being a Low Risk for cancer.

HPV can be transmitted by body to body contact and exchange of fluids through vaginal, penile, oral, or anal sexual contact and intercourse.

What are the symptoms (if any)?

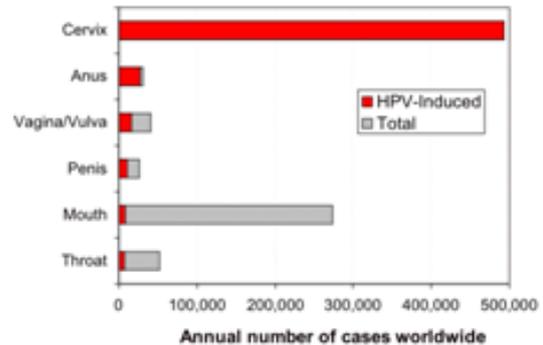
It is often difficult to tell whether you have HPV because many types of the virus cause no symptoms. Some Low Risk types of HPV cause genital warts, which may look like small pink spots, raised bumps or cauliflower shaped warts. In men, these warts tend to form on the shaft, head or base of the penis. In women, these warts may form in or around the vagina or the labia ("lips").

How is it treated?

If you have a High Risk HPV Viral type, then you will be referred to a specialist who will be able to advise you on the next stages of treatment.

If you have a Low Risk HPV Viral type, you may find that your body can get rid of the virus naturally over time. The symptoms of genital warts can be treated. If you have visible warts, then these can typically be removed with lasers, creams, surgery or frozen (cryotherapy).

You should abstain from sexual intercourse until your treatment is finished.



Graph to show proportion of HPV-Induced Cancer
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What happens if you do not get treated?

Persistent HPV infections are now recognised as the major cause of cervical cancer in women. They may play a role in some cancers affecting both men and women. They may include those of the anus, vulva, vagina, penis, mouth and throat.

If genital warts become large enough, they can become an obstacle to intercourse and in women, even delivery thereby requiring a caesarean section, although this is rare. In some instances, warts are passed from mother to child during childbirth, leading to a potentially life-threatening condition for newborns in which warts develop in the throat (laryngeal papillomatosis).

Better2Know Testing Information

Better2Know's recommended test for women is a combined PAP smear for cervical cancer and an HPV test.

For men, the standard HPV test is a swab of a visible wart or lesion; your Better2Know doctor will determine the appropriate site (visible wart, urethra, or anus) for your swab.

Better2Know is the world's leading provider of private sexual health testing services. We will get you a clinic appointment or home testing kit quickly, and deliver fast and accurate results for your peace of mind. If you have any concerns about your sexual health please visit our website www.better2know.com or email us at info@better2know.com to book an appointment or purchase your test with us today.

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