

WART TREATMENT INFORMATION

Warts are a common complaint in the pediatric population. Most children will likely have at least one wart before they turn 18. There are several types of warts that we encounter in the office. Most people are familiar with the plantar wart, which occurs on the bottom of the foot, but warts can occur on any part of the body. There are also flat warts, known as molluscum contagiosum, which are smaller warts that often come in clusters. Lastly, there are also genital warts, which are less common.

Warts can be painful, itchy and unsightly. Many people seek treatment for warts in the office for the aforementioned reasons, as well as the fact that they can spread and are contagious. Warts are viral, thus there is no oral medication that has been guaranteed to eradicate them. We treat warts frequently in the office. Outlined below are the most frequent methods used.

- **Liquid Nitrogen:** also known as “freezing” or “burning”
The liquid nitrogen freezes the skin and the wart in hopes of causing a blister and killing the wart.
- **Cantharide:** “blister beetle-juice,” a liquid compound that it is painted on the wart and left on for 4 hours in hopes of causing a local chemical burn which also may lead to a blister. There is a lower strength cantharide for the body and a higher strength for the sole of the foot.
- **Curettage:** using a scalpel to shave off the dead skin and possible removal of the wart. This is not always an option when treating a wart; it is most often performed on plantar warts when appropriate.

There are always possible side effects when treating a wart. With the first two options, we expect a blister, but sometimes the blister is larger and more painful than anticipated. Untreated warts can cause scarring, but treatment may also cause scarring. There is also the risk of warts spreading or lack of resolution with appropriate treatment.

Wart Treatment Information
Page Two

Treating a wart is considered a “surgical procedure” when billed to insurance and in many instances your insurance will transfer responsibility for payment to you under your deductible or co-insurance. Warts take time and money to treat. The medications that we use are expensive. We bill the same way that the dermatologist or the podiatrist bills. As there are thousands of different insurance plans, our office has no advance knowledge of what is covered by your insurance when we bill for this procedure. If you are considering wart treatment, please consult your insurance plan beforehand, as we can not be responsible for procedures that are not covered by your insurance. Your insurance plan will be the best place to consult, as our office will not be able to supply you with accurate answers to coverage questions. On average, you can expect wart treatment to result in a bill of approximately \$350.00

Lastly, we are always happy to discuss over the counter options for wart treatment. As we treat warts in the office, unless otherwise directed by your physician or nurse practitioner, we do not refer to dermatology or podiatry for wart treatment.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above information regarding Wart Treatment and have been given the opportunity to ask any questions that I may have regarding such treatment. By my signature, I consent to Wart Treatment.

Child's Name

Parent/Guardian

Date