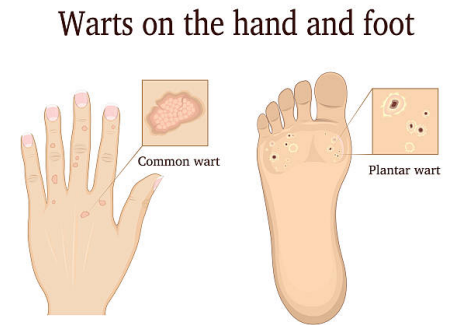


Understanding Warts:

Warts are common skin growths caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. They can appear on various parts of the body, including the hands, feet, and genital area. Warts are typically non-cancerous and harmless, but they can be unsightly and cause discomfort.

There are different types: common, genital, and plantar.



Wart Treatment Coverage in Ontario:

OHIP covers wart treatment only for plantar warts (on the feet) and genital warts. For other types of warts, treatment is not insured by OHIP. In our office we use liquid nitrogen (cryotherapy/freezing) to treat warts.

The cost of treatment depends on the number of warts being treated, minimum \$25 per treatment, and multiple treatments can be required.

At-Home Wart Treatment:

For warts that are not covered by OHIP and for those who prefer to try treating warts at home, there are several over-the-counter products available. It's important to follow the instructions carefully and be patient, as wart treatment may take *several weeks* to show results.

Here are some ways to treat warts at home:

Salicylic Acid Products:

These products come in various forms, such as liquids, gels, and adhesive pads. Compound W is an example of a wart treatment brand. Salicylic acid works by gradually breaking down the layers of the wart. Follow these steps for proper usage:

1. Soak the wart in warm water for about 10 minutes to soften the skin.
2. Gently remove any dead skin using a pumice stone or emery board.
3. Apply the salicylic acid product (such as compound w) as directed on the packaging, ensuring it covers the entire wart. Avoid applying to healthy skin.
4. Cover the wart with a bandage if required.
5. Repeat the process daily or as directed until the wart is gone (usually several weeks).

Cryotherapy (Freezing):

Over-the-counter freezing kits contain a freezing solution (usually liquid nitrogen).

- Follow the instructions on the packaging to apply the freezing solution to the wart.
- This method may cause discomfort or a stinging sensation during and after application, wart may blister and then fall off within a week or two.

If the warts are causing pain, discomfort, spreading rapidly, or if over-the-counter treatments are ineffective, follow up with your healthcare provider. There are also prescription strength medications your healthcare provider may recommend if the over the counter methods are not working.