



MIDDLEBORO PEDIATRICS

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WARTS

Diagnostic Findings

A wart is a growth on the skin with a raised, round, rough surface. They appear most commonly on the hands. They may be painful if located on the sole of the foot (a wart on the sole of the foot is called a plantar wart). Brown dots will usually be seen within the wart (unlike a callus) and a clear boundary is seen between the wart and the normal skin.

Cause

Warts are caused by papilloma viruses.

Expected Course

Most warts disappear without treatment in 2 or 3 years. With treatment they resolve in 2 to 3 months. There are no shortcuts in treating warts.

Home Treatment

We recommend wart medications that contain 17% Salicylic Acid. There are many brands to choose from: Duofilm, Compound-W, etc. Apply it once per day. Keep the lid on the container closed tightly so it won't evaporate.

1. Before each treatment soak the wart to soften and remove the dead skin by filing with a pumice stone (can be bought at pharmacy) or an emery board.
2. Use a band aid or tape to protect the normal skin around the wart.
3. The acid will turn the top of the wart into dead skin. The acid will work faster if it is covered with adhesive tape. Since you are using an acid, avoid getting any near the eyes or mouth.

Contagiousness.

Encourage your child not to pick at the wart because this may cause it to spread. If your child chews or sucks the wart, cover the area with a Band-Aid and change it daily. Encourage your child to give up this habit because chewing on warts can cause warts on the lips or face. Warts are not very contagious to other people.

CALL OUR OFFICE

During regular hours if:

- Warts develop on the feet, genitals, or face
- A wart becomes open and looks infected
- New warts develop after 2 weeks of treatment
- The warts are still present after 8 weeks of continuous daily treatment
- You have other concerns or questions