

Wart Removal: Clinical Guide

A Professional Overview of Treatment & Aftercare

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) causes benign skin growths known as warts. While often harmless, clinical removal is frequently requested for comfort, aesthetic concerns, or to prevent spread.

1. Treatment Modalities

- **Cryotherapy:** Freezing with liquid nitrogen to induce tissue necrosis. Requires 1-6 sessions.
- **Electrocautery & Laser:** High-precision thermal destruction of viral tissue under local anesthesia.
- **Topical Therapy:** Salicylic acid (17-40%) applied daily to chemically dissolve keratin layers.
- **Cantharidin:** Application of a blistering agent to lift the wart from the dermal layer.

2. Post-Procedure Aftercare

Crucial Note: The success of the procedure depends heavily on wound care. Keep the site clean and dry. Avoid picking at scabs to prevent scarring and viral shedding.

- **Hygiene:** Clean with mild soap twice daily. Do not use shared towels.
- **Blister Care:** If a blister forms, keep it intact. If it ruptures, apply antibiotic ointment and a sterile bandage.
- **Pain Management:** Mild discomfort can be managed with acetaminophen. Avoid picking at the area.

3. Preventing Recurrence

To reduce the 30% risk of recurrence, maintain strict hygiene. Avoid direct contact with other warts and do not share personal items like razors or nail files. Always wear footwear in communal showers or pool areas.