

Warts, Genital/Plantar

What is it?

- **Warts, Genital/Plantar** – are soft wart-like growths on the genitals caused by a viral skin disease, a type of sexually transmitted disease/STD; raised, flesh-colored lesions on the genitals, surrounding skin or anus; also appear as cauliflower-like growths



Signs and Symptoms:



- **Symptoms**- no symptoms, abnormal vaginal bleeding after sexual intercourse, increased vaginal discharge, increased dampness or moisture in the area of the growths, itching of the vulva, anal area, scrotum and penis; if no symptoms you must be treated to avoid complications and spreading the condition to others

Facts:

- **Virus** – responsible for genital warts is the human papilloma virus/HPV
- **Higher Risk**- multiple sex partners, sexually active at a early age, tobacco or alcohol use, stress, viral infections as HIV or herpes at any time, not knowing if one of your sex partners had STDs
- **Women**- a pelvic exam may reveal growths on the cervix or vaginal walls; colposcopy may see lesions invisible to the naked eye, may add acetic acid to make the warts visible, a pap smear may note changes associated with HPV; HPV can spread even if there are no visible warts or other symptoms

What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- for more information
 - **Genital Warts**- must be treated by a health care provider, usually can be controlled, frequently reappear after treatment, even after being treated for HPV, you may still infect others; certain types of genital warts increase a woman's risk for cancer of the vulva and cervix
 - **Inform**- all of your partners of genital warts
 - **Prevention**- abstinence only, not having sex, condoms cannot fully protect you but still need to be used to reduce your chances of getting or spreading STDs

