

# genital warts)

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Genital warts are caused by infection with HPV and are sexually transmitted. Infection is very common, with only a small proportion of infected patients actually having visible warts. Most commonly due to HPV types 6 and 11, these viruses do not cause cervical cancer. Ordinary skin warts can occur on the genitals by direct contact with a finger lesion, but they are less moist and soft and less often pedunculated than the genital variety. The lesions most commonly occur under the prepuce in the coronal sulcus but may be found elsewhere, including inside the urinary meatus and on the outer prepuce ( Figure 85.27c ). In women, genital warts are most commonly found on the vulva, but they may line the vagina and occur on the cervix. Perianal warts are common. ; it Other associated sexually transmitted diseases should be excluded: in women mainly candidiasis and Trichomonas infection and in men syphilis or gonorrhoea. Genital warts may complicate HIV infection. - Treatment is by chemical or physical means. Podophyllin is often effective as a topical application. It is applied to the wart, - taking great care to avoid the surrounding skin, and washed off after 6 hours or so. An alternative agent is imiquimod. If chemical methods fail, the warts can be excised or they can be ablated with cryosurgery , electrosurgery or laser. Circumcision is sometimes advised if there are florid lesions under the foreskin.

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