

## Wart and Molluscum Contagiosum Post-Operative Instructions

Warts are skin growths caused by various strains of the Human Papilloma virus (HPV). There is no treatment that specifically targets the virus. Therefore, warts are commonly treated with physical destructive modalities. Many warts require numerous treatments to resolve. They may also increase in size, spread, or recur despite appropriate treatments.

Molluscum Contagiosum is a common viral skin infection that causes raised dome-shaped bumps on the skin. These growths are easily spread by skin-to-skin contact and most commonly affect young children. As in the case with warts, there is no treatment targeted for the virus. These lesions may disappear on their own over time, but they may also spread if left untreated.

Treatment options for these infections include liquid nitrogen, trichloroacetic acid, Cantharone, and candida antigen injections. Below are instructions for post treatment care following each modality.

### **Following Cryotherapy with liquid nitrogen**

You can expect to develop a clear or blood-filled purple blister 1 to 2 days following cryotherapy. If the pressure from the blister is uncomfortable, you may drain the blister fluid with a sterile needle. However, do not remove the blister roof as it acts as a natural protective layer over the blister base.

### **Following Trichloroacetic acid and/or Cantharone treatment**

Soak the taped area with warm water and then remove the tape dressing after 8-36 hours as instructed by your provider. If you have severe discomfort prior to that, remove the dressing. Gently, wash the area with soap and water after removing bandages. You can expect to develop a clear or blood-filled blister within 1 to 2 days following treatment. If the pressure from the blister is uncomfortable, you may drain the blister fluid with a sterilized needle. However, do not remove the blister roof as it serves as a protective layer over the blister base.



### **Following Candidal-antigen injection treatment**

Itching and redness in the area of injection is to be common, and mild blistering may occur. Often the warts will initially turn black and crusty. If warts do not resolve with the first treatment, a second injection may be necessary about three weeks later. The side effects of Candidal-antigen injection treatment are generally rare but include rash, hives, itching over the whole body, or swelling of the infected area. This may indicate an allergy and might mean you can no longer receive Candidal-antigen injections.

If you experience mild to moderate discomfort following treatment, ibuprofen or acetaminophen may help alleviate the discomfort. You may also gently clean the area with soap and water and add a bandage with petrolatum jelly. If the discomfort is not relieved with these medications, please contact our office at (303) 604-1444 for further instructions.

### **Wart Treatment Between Appointments**

5-7 days after any of the above treatments, you may continue treating the wart(s) by using over-the-counter, salicylic acid wart pads. Some common brands are Mediplast, Dr. Scholl's, Curad, and Compound W. Don't hesitate to use medical tape to facilitate adherence of these wart pads. Before applying the wart pads, ensure that the treatment site blister has healed and that you have no pain or irritation in the treatment area.