Warts

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Warts are small, usually painless growths on the skin. Most of the time they are harmless. They are caused by a virus called human papillomavirus (HPV). Some warts can be painful, especially if they are on your hands or feet.

Types of Warts

- Common warts: These are the most common type of wart. They are usually found on the hands and feet and can be caused by HPV types 1, 2, 4, 7, 27, or 52. Common warts are typically small and hard and can be found on the skin in groups.
- Genital warts: These are warts that are found on the genital area and can be caused by HPV types 6 or 11. Genital warts are more likely to be painful and can cause bleeding.
- Plantar warts: These are warts that are found on the soles of your feet and can be caused by HPV types 1 or 3. Plantar warts are usually hard and can hurt when you put pressure on them.
- Periungual warts: These are warts that are found around the nails and can be caused by HPV types 1 or 2. Periungual warts can be painful and can make it difficult to use your hands.
- Finger warts: These are warts that are found on the fingers and can be caused by HPV types 1 or 2. Finger warts can be painful and can make it difficult to use your hands.

Causes of Warts

Warts are caused by infection with a virus called human papillomavirus (HPV). There are over 100 different types of HPV, and some of these types can cause warts. The most common types of HPV that cause warts are HPV types 1, 2, 4, 7, 27, or 52. Genital warts are caused by HPV types 6 or 11.

How to Get Rid of Warts

There are a variety of treatments for warts, including:

- Salicylic acid: This is a chemical that can be applied to the wart to help it peel off. It is often used to treat common warts.
- Cryotherapy: This involves freezing the wart with liquid nitrogen. It is often used to treat plantar warts.
- Electrodesiccation: This involves using electricity to destroy the wart. It is often used to treat common warts.
- Surgical excision: This involves cutting out the wart with a scalpel. It is often used to treat warts that are large or stubborn.

It is important to keep the area around the wart clean and dry to help prevent the development of new warts. Warts are contagious, so it is important to avoid sharing towels, clothing, or other items with someone who has warts.

Warts can be difficult to get rid of, but with the right treatment, they can usually be eliminated. It is important to talk to your doctor if you have warts that are not going away or if they are causing pain or discomfort.