

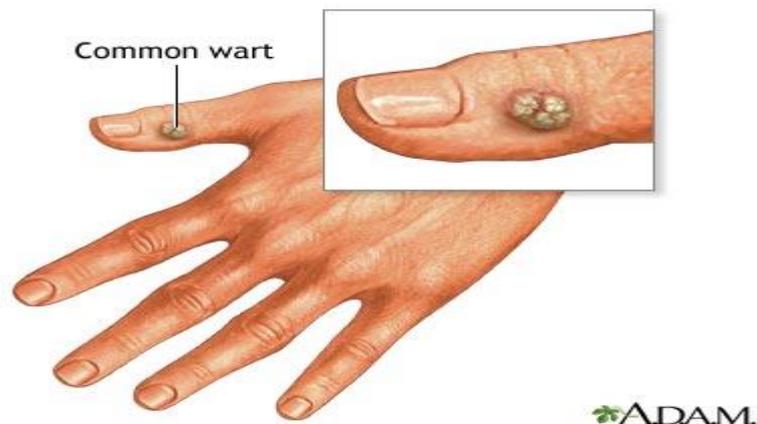
What are warts

Warts are small, usually painless growths (benign tumors) on the skin caused by a virus. The virus responsible is called the human papillomavirus (HPV). Some human papillomavirus subtypes also cause cervical cancer and other more obscure types of wart-related cancers.

The typical wart is a raised round or oval growth on the skin with a rough surface. Common warts tend to cause no discomfort unless they are in areas of repeated friction or pressure. Warts often go away on their own within two years.

The Appearance of Warts

Warts normally grow out of the skin in cylindrical columns. Black dots can sometimes be seen in a wart. These are actually blood vessels that have grown rapidly and irregularly into the wart and have thrombosed or clotted off.



Causes:

warts can be acquired through direct contact with an infected person or contact with the virus on a surface, such as shower floor. It usually spread through breaks in your skin.

Wart treatments: There are different methods but preferably follow your doctor's prescription:

1. Salicylic acid is very common and effective over-the-counter treatment **Salicylic acid** is applied to the wart and allowed to dry.
2. Freezing (Cryotherapy) is another effective treatment of warts. A provider applies liquid nitrogen as a spray or on a cotton swab to the wart.
3. Minor surgery to cut the wart.

How to reduce the risk of spreading warts

- Avoid brushing, clipping, combing, or shaving over areas of your skin, where there are warts.
- Don't walk barefoot in public areas, such as pools and locker room.
- Avoid using the same file or nail clipper on warts as you use on healthy nails.
- Don't pick at warts, you may spread the virus, place adhesive bandage over the wart to avoid picking.