

Diathermy of Condylomata (warts)

Background

Genital condylomata (singular, condyloma) are very common, and caused typically by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) types 6 and 11. The wart virus is found on up to 75% of people sometime in their lives.

The virus is transmitted by physical contact involving the genital area. Condoms are not absolutely protective. Testing the asymptomatic partner for HPV is not necessary.

Treatment

Condylomata may be treated by freezing, laser or diathermy ablation (electrical burning) and the recurrence rate after any of these may be as high as 60-70% after 6 months. Often multiple treatments are necessary. A small amount of scarring will be present after treatment, but scars are usually indistinct and less a problem than the pre-existing warts.

Pain

Some discomfort is normal, and can be relieved by simple analgesics such as Paracetamol, Panadeine (8 or 15) or Naproxen. The wounds will take up to six weeks to heal completely. You will be given a tube of local anaesthetic and antiseptic gel to apply sparingly as often as you like. Paxyl cream/ointment is also useful.

Nausea

Nausea and vomiting may occur after a general anaesthetic, and may persist for 24-48 hours. Do not be overly concerned about this. Take small volumes of fluids frequently.

Sore throat

This may be due to the breathing tube which is required to assist you whilst under anaesthetic. Again, simple analgesics will help.

Bleeding

A small amount of spotting from the wounds may occur. It will last for a variable amount of time but usually subsides within about five days. Whilst the bleeding persists, I ask you not to have sex, use tampons and avoid strenuous exercise.

Infection

Unusual but if the redness around the wounds seems to be increasing and/or you feel feverish and unwell then please make contact with the rooms.

Dizziness/ loss of concentration

May be due to the anaesthetic or analgesics, especially ones such as Panadeine. Avoid operating machinery, making important decisions or driving a car for at least 48 hours. You should take at least one day off work, longer if your work involves strenuous activity or using machinery.

Post operative review

Please call my rooms on 03 9530 8131 to make an appointment in ____ weeks.

Urgent enquiries

May be directed to my call service on 03 9387 1000

