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Patient Information: Genital Warts in Women Clinical Decision Support for Treatment

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Genital warts are a sexually transmitted infection that causes small, skin-colored or pink growths on the labia, at the opening of the vagina, or around or inside the anus. Genital warts are the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. Although warts affect both genders, more women have warts than men. Genital warts are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV). There are over 100 different types of HPV, which can cause different types of problems. HPV types 6 and 11 are the major causes of warts, and types 16 and 18 are the major causes of cervical cancer. The wart-producing strains of HPV do not typically cause cancer. HPV is spread by direct skin-to-skin contact, including sexual intercourse, oral sex, anal sex, or any other contact involving the genital area (e.g. hand-to-genital contact). It is not possible to become infected with HPV by touching a toilet seat. Most people with the virus do not have visible warts, but can still transmit the virus. Treating the warts may not decrease the chance of spreading the virus. Therefore, all people who are sexually active should be regarded as potential sources of HPV, not just those with visible warts. Warts may appear weeks to a year or more after being exposed to the virus; it is not usually possible to know when or how you became infected. Your healthcare provider is the best source of information for questions and concerns related to your medical problem and decision support for treatment.

Biography

Wafaa Ismail Shereif Sallam is assistant professor of medical and surgical nursing department, faculty of nursing, Mansoura University, Egypt. Also she is occupying position as head of the medical and surgical nursing department, faculty of nursing, Mansoura University. She had several clinical experiences as she was shared in polio eradication as a monitor in World Health Organization (WHO), head of the Ethical research committee in faculty of nursing, and trainer of Mansoura University on credit hour system and ethical research programs.

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