



Cantharadin Treatment of Warts and Molluscum

Patient Information sheet

Cantharadin solution is applied by your dermatologist to treat some warts and molluscum. Cantharadin application is painless, but it causes blistering of the wart within 24 hours which may be painful. Occasionally, the blister can fill with blood so do not be surprised if this happens.

The Procedure (as performed by your dermatologist).

Warts

1. The dermatologist may pare down (remove the outer layer) the wart. Sometimes this can be quite vigorous in order to remove as much of the thick warty skin as possible. Mollusca are never pared down.
2. Cantharadin solution is applied, this is usually painless.
3. The wart is covered with tape.

What you need to do

Wart: Remove the tape covering the wart after 24 hours (or earlier if there is a lot of pain or severe discomfort) and wash well with soap and water to remove all the Cantharadin solution.

Mollusca: After 2 hours, wash well with soap and water to remove all the Cantharadin solution.

Both:

- If the blister is painful and tight you can prick it with a sterile needle for instant relief.
- To prevent infection, you can apply Betadine paint to the area twice daily especially after pricking.
- Once the tape is removed and the blister pricked, pain should not be a problem. If pain persists take Panadol or Panadeine as required.
- By 4-7 days, the blister/scab has usually come away leaving a red healed area that may itch.
- If the wart or molluscum persists, the treatment can be repeated any time after 4 weeks may also need several more sessions following that.

What to watch for:

- Any redness spreading from the treatment area up the arm or leg associated with tenderness and or pain and especially with fever, indicates that an infection has developed. You should contact the dermatologist immediately for antibiotics.
- If a ring of warts develops around the treated area do not be alarmed. These can be treated with further applications of Cantharadin.

PLEASE STRICTLY FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS AT ALL.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact the surgery and speak with a nurse.

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