

## What Is Anal Warts (Condylomas)?

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Anal warts (condylomas) are tiny spots or growths in or around the anus. These growths can be large and cover the entire anal area.

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### How do I know if I have Anal Warts (Condylomas)?

- Tiny spots or growths in or around the anus.
  - Itching.
  - Bleeding.
  - Mucous discharge.
  - May feel a lump or mass in the anal area.
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### What causes Anal Warts (Condylomas)?

Anal warts (condylomas) are caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). HPV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) and is spread by direct contact with an infected person. You do not have to have anal intercourse to develop anal warts.

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### How can I fix this?

The anal wart(s) need to be removed so they do not grow larger and/or multiply. If anal warts are not treated and removed, they may lead to an increased risk of cancer in that area. Anal warts can be removed by three different choices and depends on the amount, size, and location of the warts.

1. **Topical medicine (Aldara)** - used if warts are very small and are located only on the skin around the anus). Topical medicine is used on top of the skin.
  2. **Freezing with liquid nitrogen** – this is usually performed in the office.
  3. **Surgical removal** - usually involves cutting or burning the warts off in the operating room.
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### Will a single treatment correct it?

The virus that causes the warts can hide in tissues for more than a few months before another wart grows. As new warts grow, they usually can be treated in the doctor's office. Sometimes new warts develop so fast that a second and often a third surgery may be suggested.

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## What can I do to keep them from coming back?

- Do not have sexual contact with individuals who have anal (or genital) warts.
- Use protection during sexual intercourse (such as a condom).
- Limit the number of sexual partners you have, this will help reduce your risk to the virus.

As a precaution, sexual partners should be checked for warts and other sexual transmitted infections, even if they have no symptoms.

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## How can I learn more?

You can also find information through the American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) at <http://www.fascrs.org/patients/conditions/>.

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## Do you have any questions or comments for your doctor?

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