



## Procedure Information

### Cauterization of Warts

#### Introduction

Warts are benign skin growths that appear when a virus (called Human Papillomavirus HPV) infects the top layer of the skin. Wart viruses are contagious. Warts can spread by contact with the wart.

Depends on your conditions and the types of wart, various treatments may be used to treat warts. Surgery is a quick and effective option if other treatments have failed. The most common types of surgical treatment for wart removal include electrosurgery and curettage, and laser surgery.

#### Outcomes

The wart is removed but the wart virus cannot be destroyed. Warts may return at the same site or appear in a new spot after the surgical treatment. Please discuss with your doctor to design an individual plan and treatment to you.

#### Procedures

1. The procedure can be performed under local anaesthesia.
2. Electrosurgery and Curettage  
The wart is burned with an electrical current and cut with a sharp knife or a small spoon-shaped tool.  
Laser Surgery  
The wart is burned with an intense beam of light.
3. A sterile waterproof dressing is applied to the wound.

#### Possible Risks and Complications

1. Wound infection
2. Wound bleeding
3. Scarring
4. Burns

\*\* The risks listed above are in general terms and the possibility of complications is not exhaustive. Please understand that even though all procedures are carried out with utmost professionalism and care, this does not rule out the possibility of complications arising. In the event of post-operative complications, further interventions may be required.

#### Pre-procedure Preparations

1. Good hygiene can prevent surgical wound infection.
2. The procedure and possible complications will be explained by the doctor and a consent form must be signed prior to the procedure.
3. Please inform the doctor and nurse all your past medical history, previous surgical operations, current medication and any complication with drug or anaesthesia.

## **Advice on Discharge**

1. The wound must be kept clean to prevent infection. The wound may be covered with a sterile dressing to protect it for a few days.
2. A soft scab will form over the treated area. It will drop off by itself and leave a small scar.
3. Wound bleeding may be occurred during the first 24 hours. It can be controlled by applying gentle pressure to the area for 10 minutes.
4. The following recommendations can prevent warts from spreading:
  - Do not pick or scratch at areas with warts.
  - Do not touch someone's warts.
  - Foot warts should be kept dry.
  - Slippers should be worn in public showers, locker rooms and pool areas.
5. Immediately consult your doctor or return to hospital for professional attention in the event of massive bleeding, pain, swelling, redness, drainage in the treated area, as well as redness and burning sensation around the wart, shivering, high fever over 38°C or 100.4°F, or any other unusual symptoms etc.
6. Any follow-up consultations should be attended as scheduled.

Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult the attending doctor.

Under the professional care of the doctor, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the doctor to further follow-up.

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Compiled by Union Hospital Operating Theatre (OT) Governance Committee

The above information is for reference only, please enquire your physician for details  
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