

After the pregnancy, the warts may have decreased in number or have spontaneously disappeared. If not, they will then be treated.

It can be a good idea to inform people with whom you have had sexual contact in the last few months. The virus is contagious. Although the warts are not always visible, it is a good idea to be examined for any abnormalities. Treatment can reduce the risk of infecting other partners and may be considered as part of good body care.

Soa Aids Nederland spant zich in om de informatie in al haar voorlichtingsmateriaal zo nauwkeurig en betrouwbaar mogelijk aan te bieden. Toch aanvaardt Soa Aids Nederland geen enkele aansprakelijkheid voor schade als gevolg van het gebruik van deze folder. **De informatie in onze folders kan nooit worden beschouwd als vervanging van een consult of persoonlijk bezoek aan een arts of specialist.**

SOAIDS

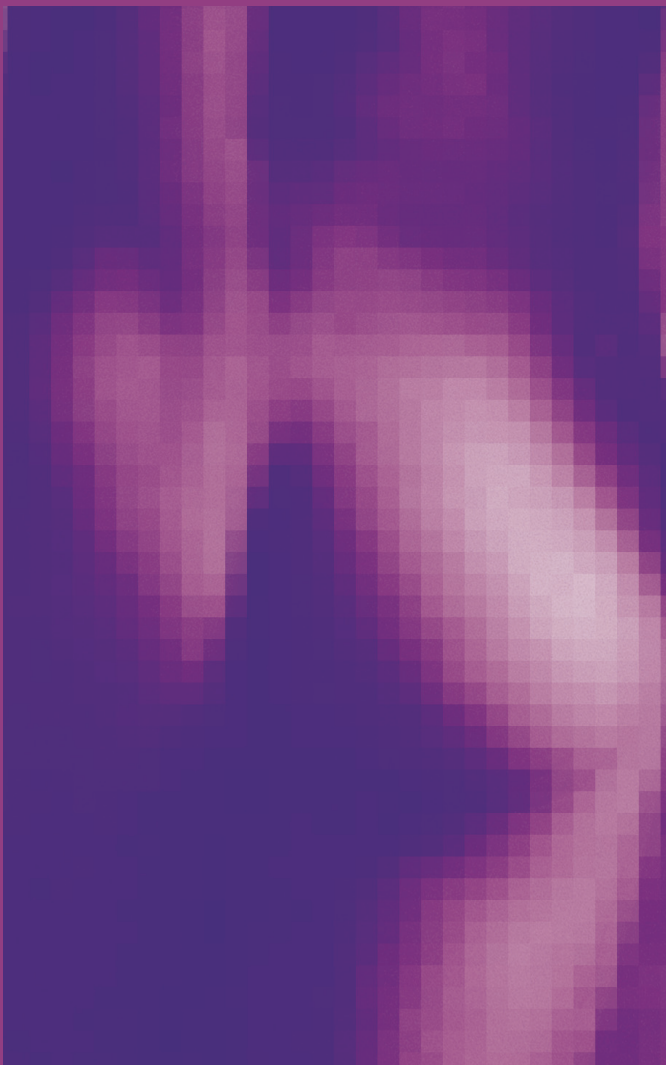
Dit is een publicatie van Soa Aids Nederland, mede mogelijk gemaakt door financiële ondersteuning van GlaxoSmithKline. Deze folder is onderdeel van de brochure 'Soa, voorkomen-testen-behandelen'. Lees zowel de folder als de brochure goed door. Voor meer informatie over soa en veilig vrijen kun je 24 uur per dag terecht bij de Aids Soa Infolijn (tel. 0900-2042040 of infolijn@soaids.nl).

Je kunt ook onze website bezoeken: www.soaids.nl



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Genital Warts



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Genital Warts

Just like normal warts on the hands and feet in children, genital warts in adults can also be transmitted to others, in this case through sexual contact. Genital warts can therefore be described as an STI (sexually transmitted infection). Warts on the genitals and around the anus occur very commonly and can be a considerable hindrance. Although not serious, they are nevertheless sometimes very persistent and may spread rapidly. The cause of the warts is a virus that is almost always passed on through sexual contact. You can also get genital warts by using a towel or washcloth from someone with genital warts, for example. Or they can be passed to the anal area by your own fingers with bowel movements. The warts are usually located on and around the genitals and the anal cleft. They may very occasionally be found in the mouth.

Symptoms in men and women

Genital warts appear several weeks to over a year after infection with the wart virus. In women the warts are found on or around the labia, in the vagina or on the cervix. In men on and around the penis. In both men and women in and around the anus. It often starts with just a few small warts that then become larger and spread. They do not cause pain, but may sometimes itch. In women, the symptoms may become exacerbated during menstruation or pregnancy. You can have genital warts without realising because they are sometimes difficult to detect yourself. In women, the warts may be internal and therefore go unnoticed. The warts may disappear by themselves. Treatment is nevertheless advisable.

Possible consequences for men and women

Genital warts can spread. To prevent this from occurring, quick treatment is important. If you wait and the warts spread, treatment will take longer. The virus that causes warts is called HPV (Human Papilloma Virus). Some types of this virus are associated with cervical cancer. Like normal warts, genital warts are caused by other types of HPV. These types are benign and have nothing to do with cervical cancer. By no means everyone who comes into contact with the wart virus will develop visible warts. Women over the age of thirty are advised to participate in the cervical cancer screening programme. You will automatically be invited by letter to participate. If necessary, discuss this with your doctor.

Tests

The doctor will carefully examine the warts and perhaps carry out additional tests to check for the presence of other sexually transmitted infections.

Treatment

Treatment is intensive and can be carried out by you or the doctor. You can treat the warts yourself by regularly applying a cream or liquid a few days a week. The doctor may treat the warts by freezing, cauterisation or surgical removal. The latter is done if there are numerous warts (clusters), naturally with an anaesthetic. The warts may return after treatment. During pregnancy, some treatments may be dangerous for the unborn child, the doctor is therefore very careful in choosing the method of treatment. The doctor may sometimes decide to wait before treating.