

Warts

Warts are common skin growths that can appear anywhere on the body. There are many types of warts. In most cases, they are **benign** (not cancer) and harmless. But warts can be embarrassing. And some warts are painful. The good news is that they can be treated.

Who Gets Warts?

Warts are most common in children and teens. But they can occur at any age. A weakened immune system may make a person more prone to warts.

What Causes Warts?

Warts are caused by the **human papillomavirus (HPV)**. This virus can spread between people. But you can be exposed to the virus and not get warts. Warts tend to form where skin is damaged or broken. But they can also appear elsewhere. Left untreated, warts can grow in number. They can also spread to other parts of the body.

Types of Warts

There are many types of warts. Some of the most common ones are described below.

- **Common warts** have a raised, rough surface. Enlarged blood vessels in the warts look like dots on the warts' surface. Common warts form mainly on the hands but can appear on other parts of the body.
- **Plantar warts** are warts appearing on the soles of the feet. When you stand or walk, pressure makes plantar warts painful. When they form in clusters, plantar warts are called mosaic warts.
- **Periungual warts** form under and around fingernails. People who bite their nails are more at risk.
- **Filiform warts** are slender, fingerlike growths that can dangle from the skin. They most often appear on the face and neck.
- **Flat warts** are small, smooth growths. They tend to form in clusters on the face, backs of the hands, or legs.



Common Wart



Plantar Wart



Flat Warts