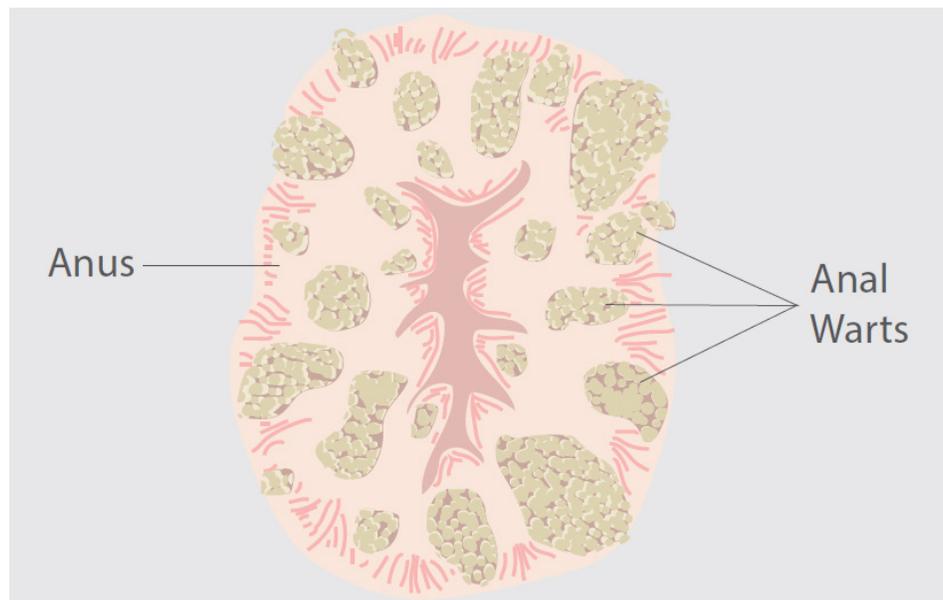


## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Anal Warts

### What you need to know:

Anal warts, also known as condyloma acuminata, are small spots or growths inside or around the anus or genital skin. They can increase in size and spread if not treated. Warts are not usually painful, but some patients may experience itching, bleeding, mucus discharge, and a feeling of a lump or mass in the anal area.



### What causes anal warts?

Anal warts, also known as condyloma acuminata, are caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV). This virus is transmitted person to person by direct contact and is considered a sexually transmitted disease (STD). Exposure to the virus may have occurred several years before the warts develop. Anal intercourse is not necessary to contract anal condyloma.

### Why do I need surgery?

If not removed anal warts will grow larger and spread. HPV is highly transmissible when lesions are present. Untreated anal warts may lead to an increased risk of anal cancer.

### Surgical treatment:

Surgical treatment usually involves some combination of removal and burning with a cautery. These procedures are done with anesthesia in the operating room as an outpatient. In advanced cases, multiple procedures may be needed to remove all of the lesions.

## PATIENT INFORMATION

### **What is the recovery like after surgery?**

Pain, discomfort, spotty bleeding, clear, yellowish or blood tinged discharge are normal for a few days after surgery. Pain medication may be prescribed and placing a gauze pad on the area will help absorb moisture and decrease itching related to moisture.

Depending on the extent of warts to be removed, some people are able to return to work the next day, while others may remain out of work for several days or weeks.

Excessive bleeding is abnormal and your physician should be notified immediately.

### **What can I do to avoid getting anal warts again?**

Anal warts commonly come back. Patients should follow up with their physician at frequent intervals following treatment to ensure no new warts occur. With close follow-up, in most cases, recurrent lesions can be removed much more easily than the initial surgical treatment. Patients should refrain from sexual activity until all of their lesions are treated and they have been disease free for several months. As a precaution sexual partners should be checked for HPV and other STDs. Wearing a condom does not provide complete protection from the HPV virus.

### **Call your surgeon's office for all questions and concerns:**

**Office:** 314-454-7177 (Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

**Exchange:** 314-362-1242 (after hours, holidays and weekends)