HPV and Genital Warts

What are genital warts?

Genital warts are skin-colored bumps on a person's penis, vagina (inside and outside), or anus (butt). Warts usually don't hurt but they can be uncomfortable or itchy.

Why do people get genital warts?

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) can cause genital warts. HPV is an infection that you can get from vaginal, anal, or oral sex.

There are many different types of HPV.
- Some types of HPV cause warts. These are called low risk because they don't cause cancer.
- Other types of HPV can cause cancer. These are called high risk.
- Some people have more than one type of HPV.
- Most people that have HPV never know they have it.

> **HPV is very common. Nearly everyone will get HPV at some point in their lives.**

What should I do if I have genital warts?

Warts are not dangerous. Many times they go away on their own. But you can get rid of the warts if:
- they bother you
- you are pregnant
- you have certain health problems that make it harder for your body to fight infections

You can get rid of genital warts with:
- **a cream** that your doctor gives to you.
- **medicine** that your doctor puts on the warts.
- **surgery**. Your doctor can burn, freeze, laser, or cut away the warts.

Protect yourself and your partners from HPV.

Get the HPV shot.

- The HPV shot is the best way to protect yourself from HPV. It protects you against genital warts and some types of cancer.
- Anyone between the ages of 9 and 26 can get the shot. The earlier you get it, the better.
- You can still get the shot if you have HPV.

Use condoms.

- Condoms help protect you from HPV and other infections that are passed through sex.
- There is still a chance you can get HPV even if you use condoms. This is because HPV is passed through close skin-to-skin contact during sex. But condoms lower the chance of HPV.

Outside condoms.
These go on the penis.

Use them for oral, vaginal, and anal sex.

Source: Bedsider.com

Inside condoms.
These go inside the vagina or anus (butt).

Use them for vaginal and anal sex.

Dental dams.
These go on top of the vagina or anus.

Use them for oral sex.

To learn more, talk to your CHN health educator or doctor!