

Treatment of Warts with Cantharone Plus and At Home Care

Cantharone Plus is a liquid containing three active ingredients: salicylic acid, podophyllin, and cantharidin. Its common name is “beetle juice”. It is used to treat common warts, plantar warts, and molluscum contagiosum. Risks involve pain and itching within a day of application. A blister will form in the area of application. It does typically require more than one application. Occasionally it causes a ring of small warts to form in the area around the first wart (satellite warts). These can be treated with the same techniques as the initial wart.

With initial use, it is recommended to only treat one or two warts to assess a patient’s tolerability. If the patient is able to tolerate more, many warts can be treated with the next application.

It is recommended to re-treat warts every 10-14 days until wart is gone. If the area remains significantly irritated, a longer interval between treatments is needed.

Application of the liquid by one of our providers is not painful. After application and drying of the liquid, a tape will be applied. Remove this tape in 4-24 hours unless it is around the nail bed. Nail bed warts require the tape to remain in place overnight, up to 24 hours. Leave the tape on as long as tolerated for best results. Do not bathe or soak area in water for 4-6 hours or until the tape is removed.

If the area becomes itchy, take an oral antihistamine per package directions. If the area hurts, use acetaminophen or ibuprofen according to package directions.

Treatment Progression:

- 4 hours: Mild discomfort may occur
- Tape removal 4-24 hours after application. Wash with mild antibacterial soap and water. Protect the area with a Band-Aid.
- You may soak the area in cool water for 10-15 minutes for comfort as needed.
- 24 hours: Blistering of the area
- 4 days: Crusted blisters fall off leaving superficial erosions. These may itch.
- 7 days: Healed with temporary residual inflammation/redness. Temporary loss of normal pigmentation often occurs, but will leave no residual scar.

Please make an appointment for follow up:

- For any signs of infection (red streaks, pus draining, swelling, fever)
- In 10-14 days for re-evaluation and treatment if indicated