

## Warts

### **What are warts?**

Warts are local growths on the skin that are actually caused by a virus. This virus is known as the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). There are over 100 types of Human Papillomaviruses that have been identified to infect the skin or mucous membranes. Depending on the type of virus, it can be spread from person to person or from contact with a contaminated surface.

### **How are warts treated?**

There are medicated pads, gels, and other ointments that contain an ingredient that dissolves the protein that generally makes up the wart. If these topical treatments fail, a doctor can freeze the wart with liquid nitrogen. Doctors can also burn the wart with an electric needle. In extreme cases where the wart may be very large and uncomfortable, surgical removal may be required. It is important to understand that a wart is caused by a virus, and even after treatment or removal, they can reappear.