



Genital Warts: The STI Facts

What are genital warts?

Genital warts are lumps on the skin around the penis, vagina or anus (bottom) and caused by an infection called human papillomavirus (HPV).

HPV is very common. Genital warts are usually painless and can disappear without treatment.

How do you get genital warts?

Genital warts (genital HPV) can be passed from person to person through skin to skin contact when you have vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has them. Genital warts usually appear from 3-12 months after getting HPV.

How can I prevent genital warts?

- Get the HPV vaccine. The vaccine protects against the most common types of HPV that cause genital warts and cervical cancer. Talk to your doctor to see if you should get the HPV vaccine.
- Use condoms or dams during vaginal, oral and anal sex. Condoms will reduce the chance of genital warts from being passed on. Make sure you change condoms between partners and when sharing sex toys.

- Use dams during oral sex. Dams will limit skin to skin contact and reduce the chance of genital warts from being passed on.
- Avoid shaving or waxing affected areas if you have genital warts.
- Test for STIs and HIV every 3-12 months. It is important and part of a healthy confident sex life.

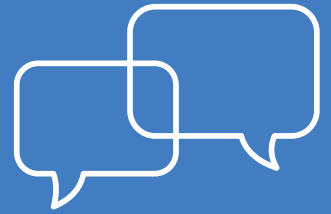
How do I test for genital warts?

Genital warts aren't part of a routine STI test. If you see any new lumps on your genitals, you can get checked for genital warts by having a doctor or nurse check the skin of the genitals.

If you have genital warts, you should get tested for other STIs. STI tests are easy, confidential and nothing to be ashamed about.

You can get an STI test at your local doctor, a sexual health clinic and some university health clinics. You can call the [Sexual Health Infolink](#) on 1800 451 624 (free call) to find the closest service to you.





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How do you treat genital warts?

Genital warts can stay the same, get worse or go away without treatment. Most people want them treated. You can treat genital warts with a special paint or cream that you get from your doctor.

Don't use treatment for warts that you get on other parts of the body for genital warts. This can scar your genital skin and be very painful. Sometimes your doctor will freeze or burn the genital warts off your body.

Where can I find more information on genital warts and other STIs?

For information and support about genital warts, other STIs and your sexual health, you can call the [Sexual Health Infolink](#) on 1800 451 624 (free call) to speak to a specialist sexual health nurse. It's free, confidential, and non-judgemental. You can also visit the [International Student Health Hub](#).

If you would like an interpreter to help you access health services or information, please contact the [Translating and Interpreting Service](#) on 131 450.

Scan the QR code to find out more about genital warts and STIs

