



Case Report

Volume 9 Issue 1 - April 2018  
DOI: 10.19080/OAJS.2018.09.555752

Open Access J Surg

Copyright © All rights are reserved by Bakulesh Khamar

# Management of Large Size Wartsasia



**Bakulesh Khamar\***

Research and Development department, India

Received: March 09, 2018; Published: April 30, 2018

\*Corresponding author: Bakulesh Khamar, Research and Development department, Cadila Pharmaceuticals Limited, Ahmadabad, India, Tel: 0091-2718-225001; Fax: 0091-2718-225031, Email: [bmk@cadilapharma.co.in](mailto:bmk@cadilapharma.co.in)

## Abstract

Large warts are difficult to treat as they need repeated treatment for a longer duration compared to small warts. They are associated with higher viral load and significantly more cell mediated immune suppression. There are no standardized guidelines for management of large warts. Intralesional immunotherapy like Candida antigen, Cadi-05 and antiviral like Cidofovir are found to be useful in achieving complete remission as a monotherapy and can be tried as first line treatment. Quadrilateral HPV vaccine is also useful in achieving complete remission as a first line therapy. Combination of ablation therapy and topical therapy may be useful in quicker resolution of mass and achieving complete resolution.

**Keywords:** Wart; Large wart; Immunomodulators; Combination therapy; Immune profile; Cidofovir; Immunosuppressant; Surgery

**Abbreviations:** HPV: Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), PD-1: Programmed Cell Death Protein 1, RR: Risk Ratio, IFN: Interferon, CI: Confidence Interval, PDL: Pulsed Dye Lasers, NSCLC: Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, PDT: Photo Dynamic Therapy (PDT), TNF: Tumor Necrosis Factor

## Introduction

Warts are caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) mainly by low risk HPV. Human papilloma viruses (HPVs) essentially induce skin and mucosal epithelial lesions [1-3]. Immune compromised individuals are more prone to HPV infection. HPV infection is almost six times more common in patients with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) [4,5]. Low-risk HPV types behaving more aggressively in immune compromised patients [4]. Each HPV type is typically associated with infections of specific areas (location) on the body and induces distinct histological lesion [6-9].

### Common warts (*verruca vulgaris*)

HPV types 2 and 4 (most common); also types 1, 3, 26, 29, and 57 and others. Clinically they appear as slightly raised rough surface epithelial proliferations. They are most often seen on hands but can grow anywhere on the body.

### Flat warts (*verruca plana*)

HPV types 3, 10, 28, 38, and 49. Clinically they appear as a small (1-2mm), smooth flattened, skin colored wart [10]. They can occur in large numbers. They are most common on the face, neck, hands, wrists and lower part of legs but never in the soles of hands. Very rarely they assume large size. They usually regress and get cleared on their own within 2 months with resolution of infection.

### Plantar warts (*verruca plantaris*) (myrmecia)

HPV type 1 (most common) also types 2, 3, 4, 27, 28, 58, 66 and others. A plantar wart is a wart occurring on the bottom of the foot or toes [11], usually on pressure points on the soles of the feet.

### Anogenital warts (condylomata, acuminata or venereal warts)

HPV types 6, 11(most common), 16, 18, 42, 44 and also others; a wart that occurs on the genitalia, anal region. They can be confluent or large size.

### Butcher's warts of the hands and fingers (HPV 7)

Butcher's wart is a cutaneous (skin) condition with a prevalence of 8.5% to 23.8% among butchers and other meat-handling professions [12,13].

### Natural Course and Immune Profile

Like majority of viral diseases almost 75% of warts regress spontaneously [8] with 30% regressing within four months [14]. Rest persist, progress with increase in no. and size. Immune response to HPV infection is responsible for spontaneous regression of warts. Spontaneously regressing warts have epidermal and dermal influx of CD<sup>4+</sup> activated memory lymphocytes, low level of Il-10, high level of Interferon and Th1 response [4,15,16]. CD<sup>4+ve</sup> lymphocytes within the wart

stoma and the surface epithelium [5] along with macrophage predominate [2,17] in regressing wart. There is a significant change in the ratio of CD<sup>4+</sup> to CD<sup>8+</sup> cells [17].

The failure to develop effective cell-mediated immunity to clear or control infection is associated with systemic or local immune dysfunction or defects [18]. There is a down regulation of major histocompatibility complex I and II in local lesions, alternation of the ratio of CD<sup>4+</sup> and CD<sup>8+</sup> T lymphocytes, decrease in expression of tumor necrosis factor (TNF)  $\alpha$ , GM-CSF, interleukin (IL) 1 $\alpha$  and IL 1 $\beta$ , increased expression of IL 10, the dysfunction and decreased number of langerhans cells and expression defects of co stimulatory molecules [4,8]. There is a marked increase in Tregs expressing expression Foxp3, TGF  $\beta$ 1, IL 10, CTLA4, GITR and PD 1 [18,19]. Increase Tregs are induced by epithelial cell expressing E7 protein [20]. NK cell activity is suppressed due to reduction in expression of NKG2D and NKp46 [18]. There is a decreased ratio of Th1/Th2 and Tc1/Tc2 [19,21]. There is decrease in Th1 cytokine (IL 2, IL 12 and IFN  $\gamma$ ) and increase in Th2 cytokines (IL 4 and IL 10) [18,21]. Persisting warts can be divided into small (<5mm) medium (5 to 8mm) or large (>8mm) as per size. Intralesional cell mediated immune suppression is proportionate to size of wart. FoxP3 expressing Treg cells (immune suppressive cells) are highest in large wart and absent in small warts [22]. This cell seems to be responsible for decreased expression of IFN and IL-2 and increased expression of IL-10 and TGF-beta in large wart compared to small warts [22].

### Response to Therapy and Immune Changes

Like spontaneous regression, increased cell mediated immune response of Th1 type with infiltration of immune cells [16,23-34] are important for treatment induced regression of warts. There is no change in immune profile of non-responders/per siders. In spite of clearance with therapy, recurrence is seen in large no (25%-67%) within three months. Reactivation at the site of previous infection, and persistence following are believed to be responsible for recurrence [8]. Cell mediated immune suppression as revealed by decrease in Th1 cytokine and CD4 T cells, suppression of delayed type hypersensitivity and increase in IL 12. Programmed cell death protein 1(PD-1) expressing T cells is found in recurrent warts [24, 35,36]. Predominant Th1 or mixed Th1/Th2 cytokine profile is seen in non- recurrent warts [24].

### Therapeutic Options

Warts are superficial lesions harboring virus. One of the options is to get rid of tissues harboring viruses and include surgical removal, cryotherapy, laser therapy, pulsed laser therapy etc. as provider administered or office procedures. Uses of topical medications to be self-administered for removal of tissues include salicylic acid, podop etc. The other options include use of immune modulators to correct immune dysfunction for persistence of infection. Immunomodulators like imiquimod,

Sinecatechins are topical medications while isotretinoin, cyclophosphamide are oral medication for self-administrations. Immunomodulators can be administered intralesional as office procedure. Intralesional immune modulators include allergens (antigen) like candida used for determining dermal hypersensitivity, CADI-05. Quadrilateral HPV vaccine approved for prevention of HPV vaccine is also found useful in treatment of warts. Cidofovir is antiviral agent active against cytomegalovirus infection. It is found useful in management of warts when administered topically or intralesional.

With multiple options available, treatment in a given patient is determined by number, size, and location of lesions [2] and preference of a physician as well as patients. Large warts are difficult to treat due to their size and associated cell mediated immune suppression. The management may require repeated treatments over a prolonged time period [37]. Their size makes it difficult for topical therapies to achieve desired tissue concentrations. First-line treatment is not always successful in achieving complete clearance [37]. Current evidence is also not adequate to suggest best option for treatment of large warts [37]. CO2 laser therapy, are generally associated with higher probabilities of complete clearance at the end of treatment for large warts [37]. Very large wart lesions, including Buschke-Löwenstein tumors, can be considered for surgical treatment [37]. However surgical treatment is generally not recommended as first line therapy due to scar formation following it and or need for anesthesia and another specialist [37]. Review of literature suggests that some of the immunotherapeutic agents are useful in management of large wart as a monotherapy and include Candida antigen, CADI-05, Quadrivalent HPV vaccine. Of these, CADI-05 is found to have antiviral properties and viral load, as well. Cidofovir is also described as useful in management of large warts as a monotherapy.

Compared to smaller warts, large warts are associated with increased viral load and cell mediated immune suppression and so targeting both may be useful. This can be achieved by combining two or more therapeutic options. For decreasing viral load by removing tissue, cryotherapy, surgical excision/debulking, Laser therapy, photodynamic therapy can be used. The advantage of these procedures is immediate decrease in viral load. Disadvantages include need for multiple treatment session for complete cure, high recurrence rate and scar formation. Cidofovir, an antiviral agent, can be administered topically or intralesional. For improving immune profile, Imiquimod, Sinecatechins, CADI-05, Quadrilateral HPV vaccine, cyclophosphamide are found useful. . Combination therapies described to be useful in management of large warts include ablative procedure like cryotherapy/ laser therapy with topical immunotherapy like Imiquimod, Sinecatechins. Ablative procedure is also combined with isotretinoin and cyclophosphamide. Combination of ablative procedure with antiviral cidofovir is also found useful.

## Candida Antigen

Sensitivity testing by intradermal injection of an antigen (allergen) is a measure of delayed cell mediated immunity. Candida antigen injection in patients sensitive to Candida antigen is associated with complete resolution of warts in (54% -76%) of patients [38-43]. Clearance of distant untreated warts is seen in (57% -78%) of patients [38-43]. Candida antigen is useful irrespective of size (small or large) or no. of warts [38-43]. It is effective in newly diagnosed warts as well as warts resistant to standard treatment in immune compromised individuals also [38-45]. Intradermal injection of Candida antigen up regulates the cell-mediated immune response, augmenting the overall clearance of the HPV [46].

The baseline immune status as determined by IFN-gamma levels seems to predict outcome with higher levels seen in responders [41]. The response is associated with HPV L1 peptide specific cell mediated immune response [47].

The recommended dosing regimen is 0.1-0.3mL of Candida antigen injected intradermally into the largest lesion every two to three weeks until complete clearance of the wart or a maximum of three to five treatments [39,41,42]. Side effects include mild erythema and pain at the site of injection. There is one reported case of vitiligo and another case of painful, purple discoloration at the site of injection [40,48,49]. Like Candia antigen, other skin sensitizing agents used include mumps, trichophyton and tuberculin [50].

## CADI-05

CADI-05 is a potent TLR 2 agonist which induces pure potent systemic Th1 response [51]. It induces prominent delayed hypersensitivity response by increasing innate as well as adaptive immune response [52-54]. Unlike other immunotherapy it decreases immunosuppressive T cells like Treg also [52,56]. Effect on immune suppression is significant and manifests as improved CD4 count in HIV positive individuals [55]. The systemic immune response generated is strong enough to work as monotherapy in bladder cancer [56] and melanoma [57]. It is approved for treatment of advanced Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) along with chemotherapy in India.

In management of wart it is administered intradermally or intralesional or combination of two [58-66]. It generates systemic immune response following intralesional administration and clears remote (distant, non-injected) warts [61-63,65]. Its administration is associated with clearance of HPV virus also [64]. It achieves complete clearance in small as well as large warts, cutaneous as well as anogenital warts [58-66]. It is effective in newly diagnosed as well as recalcitrant wart which has not responded to other therapies or recurred following other therapies [58-62]. No. of administration for achieving complete response seems to be related to size and/or no. of warts [63]. New warts following clearance, if seen are at a different location [63].

Following therapy with CADI-05 of large refractory extra-genital warts, complete clearance of treated warts was seen in 66.7% (20/30) of the patients with clearance of 46.2% of distant warts [61]. Complete clearance is also seen in large anogenital warts [58,66]. The reported systemic side effects include flu-like symptoms, fever, and lymphadenopathy [60,62,63,65]. Injection site reaction include pain, modularity, ulceration, scarring at the site of injection [60,62,63,65].

## Quadrivalent HPV Vaccine

Quadrivalent HPV vaccine, GARDASIL, is approved for prevention of diseases caused by HPV types 6,11,16,18. It is also found useful in management of wart as a therapeutic vaccine [67-76]. It induces complete clearance of chronic warts, warts not responding to other therapies irrespective of its size [67,68,70-76]. It works in immune compromised individuals also [67,69,72,75]. The decrease in size is evident following first injection. Complete clearance is achieved three months after third dose. Clearance of warts caused by other (not included in vaccine) e.g. HPV 2 type is also seen [68,72]. Surprisingly anogenital warts are not cleared while cutaneous warts are cleared following administration of quadrivalent vaccine [69].

The major drawback of quadrilateral vaccine is time required for administration of three dose (0, 2 and 6 months) and time taken for complete resolution of warts. Quadrivalent vaccine is now replaced by nine talent vaccine providing prophylaxis against HPV type 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58 also. This should provide better efficacy than quadrilateral vaccine. It will be useful to evaluate it in recalcitrant large size warts.

## Cidofovir

Cidofovir is approved for treatment of cytomegalovirus infection by intravenous route of administration [77,78]. Cidofovir has been shown to reduce E6 and E7 expression in HPV +ve cells and thereby reducing proliferation of infected cells leading to apoptosis, and virustatic control of HPV infection [78,79]. Cidofovir works on HPV transformed cells having compromised DNA repair [80]. It has no effect on normal cells. In animal studies of HPV infections, systemic administration is not found useful [81]. Topical treatment is useful in small/medium size lesions [81]. Intralesional cidofovir cures even large papilloma [81]. Recurrences following intralesional cidofovir can be eliminated by combining it with immunotherapy [82].

Topical and intralesional cidofovir has been successfully used in treatment of warts [78,79,83-93]. Best results with topical cidofovir are seen with 3% cidofovir applied twice daily. Treatment should be stopped if there is no response after 10 weeks [83]. It is found useful for warts on the oral mucosa, hands and anogenital region [84]. Complete response following topical cidofovir range from 47%-57.5% [94,95]. Complete response is also possible in a large wart a [83]. Female gender, younger age and genital warts are likely to have complete response following topical cidofovir [95].

The most common side effects of topical cidofovir are pain, pruritus and rash at the application site [96].

Intralesional cidofovir 7.5mg to 25mg/mL is administered once a month [84,91,92]. This achieved complete wart clearance 276 of 280 patients (98.5%) in recalcitrant warts with no recurrence [85]. Intralesional cidofovir is found useful in management of a large wart [92]. The most common adverse events with these injections were pain, burning sensation, itching, erythema, and post-inflammatory hyper pigmentation [85]. Topical cidofovir 3% is found useful in management of large warts in immune compromised hosts with surgical debulking in anecdotal cases [97,98].

### Cryotherapy

Cryotherapy, an inexpensive and simple provider administered procedure using liquid nitrogen in a spray or cryoprobe. The temperatures involved with cryotherapy are cold to the point that there is permanent dermal and vascular damage leading to necrosis and clearance of the abnormal cells and is frequently used to destroy warts by cold-induced cytolysis. It does not treat subclinical lesions in the surrounding skin and can account for recurrence. A recent systematic review of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) on local treatments for immune competent and HIV infected patients globally concluded that ablative techniques are clinically more effective at completely clearing warts immediately.

(-Health assessment-) Cryotherapy is considered a first-line provider administered therapy due to its relative ease of administration and cost. Cryotherapy efficacy did not appear to differ from that of topical therapies [99-101] and is very effective for multiple and small warts [102]. Recurrence rates are estimated between 25% and 42% [102-105]. Combining it with interferon (IFN) - alpha does not improve clearance rate as well as recurrence rate [105] outcome. Electro surgery was weakly associated with better AGW clearance than cryotherapy (risk ratio (RR) 0.80, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.65-0.99) [100]. Cryotherapy is associated with more immediate adverse events (erythema, stinging, or irritation; RR 3.02, 95% CI 1.38-6.61) and immediate pain requiring oral analgesics (RR 2.11, 95% CI 1.07-4.17) [99,100,106]. Local tissue destruction with blistering, ulceration, infection, and loss of pigmentation manifest later. There is also a risk for permanent scarring [102]. Cryotherapy is not popular as a monotherapy in management of large warts as treatment of a widely involved area is not tolerated well by patients due to pain and multiple visits needed for complete clearance.

### Surgical Excision

Warts may be removed surgically via shave excision, scissor excision, curettage, and/or electro cautery [102]. Surgical intervention provides immediate results, which is useful in patients with large, obstructive or extensive warts [102]. It also provides opportunity for histopathological assessment for

lesions suspicious of malignancy. Recurrence following surgical excision is described in 19% to 29% of cases [107-109]. The high recurrence rates may be attributed to the clinically unapparent surrounding tissue that continues to harbor the HPV virus. Disadvantages include bleeding, longer healing course, and pain. It can be combined with other topical therapies to improve outcome. This is not the procedure of choice for majority of patients with large wart.

### Laser therapy

#### Carbon dioxide laser

Carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) laser has been a valuable tool as a destructive therapy for genital warts that uses infrared light energy to vaporize targeted areas [110-112] to provide bloodless removal. Clearance rates range between 23% and 52% with recurrence rates as high as 77%. HIV-negative patients responded better to treatment with a 71% cure rate versus 58% for HIV-positive patients. Scarring, hypo pigmentation, are some of the disfiguring adverse effects of CO<sup>2</sup> laser treatment of warts [113,114]. Postoperative pain and prolonged wound healing are other complications [113,114]. Scarring has been reported in up to 61% of patients treated for recalcitrant warts and appeared unrelated to wart duration or location [113]. Immune suppressed patients are especially susceptible to scarring and delayed wound healing [115]. This can be combined with other therapies to improve the outcome. Its side effect profile is better than cryotherapy [100].

#### Pulsed Dye Lasers

Pulsed dye lasers (PDL) emit a wavelength from 585 to 595nm, consistent with a hemoglobin absorption peak. It is hypothesized that PDL destroys the characteristically dilated superficial capillaries that supply warts, thereby starving the epidermal cells that host viral molecules [116-118]. Furthermore, it has been suggested that PDL destroys the HPV virus itself as a result of the virus's heat-sensitive properties [116,119-121]. PDL therapy has been used to treat simple and recalcitrant common, palmar, plantar, and flat warts, with studies reporting remission rates ranging from 47% to 100% [116,117,120-127]. Palmar warts may have higher response rates than plantar warts (75% palmar vs 20% plantar [125]; 93% palmar vs 69% plantar) [126]. PDL can treat warts in cosmetically important area. PDL is combined with other modalities to improve outcome. In recalcitrant warts, PDL followed by intralesional bleomycin (0.5 IU/mL; median, 0.3mL/wart) achieved 89% remission in recalcitrant hand warts [127] with 80% in an immune compromised patients. Adverse effects of PDL therapy include local pain during and after the procedure, bullae, crusting, scarring, and temporary pigment changes [117,118,124]. PDL has significantly fewer adverse effects than the CO<sub>2</sub> laser [122]. Compared with cryotherapy, PDL has a lower incidence of pain and bulla formation [122]. It is found useful in management of large warts also as a monotherapy.

## Photodynamic Therapy

5-aminolevulinic acid is a photosensitive which accumulates in HPV-infected cells in greater quantities than in adjacent normal skin following topical application [28] and is used for destruction of tissue harboring HPV by phototoxic reaction in photodynamic therapy (PDT). There is a significant, up to 10 fold increase of interleukin (IL)-1 alpha and a 2.5-fold increase of tumor necrosis factor-alpha [128] following photodynamic therapy (PDT). Response to therapy is associated with increase in CD8+ cells [28,128], CD4+ cells [129], dendritic cells, and decrease in Treg cells [130] with achievement of normal Treg level by three weeks. 5-aminolevulinic acid can be injected into lesion to enhance penetration and increase its effectiveness e.g larger or thicker lesions [131,132].

The main advantages of PDT are a high degree of effectiveness and safety, a short recovery period, good cosmetic results and the ability to treat a large surface area with minimal scarring and low recurrence rate [133-140] irrespective of site of lesion in general complete clearance rates of 56%–100% in recalcitrant hand and foot warts have been reported [135]. The reported recurrence rates with PDT are best amongst all ablative procedures as a monotherapy. PDT has been proposed for treating refractory lesions and lesions that recur despite the correct administration of another treatment. However, ALA-PDT was not shown to be beneficial as an adjunctive treatment to ablation of condyloma acuminata with a CO2 laser [141]. The adverse effects, all local, include pain [142], a burning sensation, and erythema [143]. Photodynamic therapy is better than cryotherapy for wart clearance and adverse events [140].

## Imiquimod

Imiquimod (an imidazoquinoline amine), is an immune response modifier licensed for the topical treatment of external genital and perianal warts. Imiquimod acts through a Toll-like receptor (TLR7) [144,145]. Treatment with Imiquimod [32,34] activates cell mediated immune response of Th1 type as revealed by significant increases in mRNA for interferon (IFN)-alpha, IFN-gamma, 2'5' AS, TNF-alpha, CD4 and CD8. Imiquimod is associated [33,146] with a decrease in HPV DNA and in mRNA expression. Wart clearance [33] following treatment with Imiquimod is associated with evidence of tissue production of interferon-alpha, -beta, and -gamma and tumor necrosis factor-alpha. A significant correlation between the presence of circulating, pre-existing HPV specific T lymphocytes and regression of HPV positive lesions has also been observed [147,148].

In clinical studies, wart clearance has been reported in 35-68% of patients with treatment courses up to 16 weeks [144,145,149-155]. The reported clearance rates are higher in women than in men, and also women have a shorter median time to clearance than men. Clearance is seen between 8-12 weeks for small cutaneous warts [156]. Recurrence rates (6-26%) after successful clearance are low [144,145,151,152,155].

Erythema is often seen as a side effect with Imiquimod therapy [156] and sometimes appears to precede clinical resolution [50]. Occasionally severe inflammation is seen necessitating discontinuation of therapy [50]. Rare side effects include psoriasis form eruptions, mucosal ulcerations, hyper pigmentation [157,158].

It is combined with other therapies like laser [159-162], cryo therapy [163] salicylic acid [163,164] to improve clearance rates and minimize recurrences it has been successfully used as a combination therapy in management of large warts [164].

## Sin catechins

Sin catechins (Polyphenon E) Polyphenon E is a standardized extract of green tea leaves (*Camellia sinensis*). Sin catechins inhibits proliferation of HPV infected cells and also induces apoptosis in vitro [165]. Sin catechins use is associated decreased viral load in warts. The decreased viral load is associated with changes in genes involved in regulation of cell signaling, immune response and apoptosis processes [166-168]. Sin catechins inhibits MMP-2, MMP-7, MMP-9; lipoxygenases and cyclooxygenases [COX-1, COX-2]; epidermal growth factor [169].

An ointment containing Sin catechins at a concentration of 15% and 10% are available as approved products for the treatment of external anogenital wart. Both have similar results. The dosage is 3 applications daily for up to 16 weeks. Randomized controlled trials in patients of both sexes has shown overall lesion clearance rates of between 54% and 65% compared to an average clearance rate of 35% in placebo groups [170-174]. Recurrence rates were between 6% and 12% after 12 weeks of follow-up. The effect of this substance is not evident clinically until approximately the third week of treatment and becomes more apparent in the fourth to sixth weeks [170].

The most common undesirable effects (80%) are local ones, particularly erythema and pruritus that begin to appear in the second or third week of treatment [170-173]. Although a large percentage of patients have adverse reactions, they are well tolerated. Inflammation, indicative of the drug's activity, arises from a local immune response mediated by pro-inflammatory cytokines. The incidence of local skin reactions has been reported to be higher in responders than nonresponders [171]. The efficacy in immune compromised individuals is not known. Recurrence rate (6.5%) is identical to placebo group [173]. Use of Sin catechins following cryotherapy for warts, improves response rate of cryotherapy [175]. Response rate can be as high as 96.3% with a recurrence rate of 7.4% [176]. The combination may be useful on management of large tumors.

## Isotretinoin

Retinoic Acid suppresses transcription of HPV [177]. Oral isotretinoin is used successfully in management of warts as a single agent [178-181]. Oral low dose (0.5mg/day) is also useful [182-184]. Complete clearance is seen in 31.2% -100%

[178,183-186]. Topical isotretinoin is not as effective as oral isotretinoin [181]. It can be combined with topical podophyllin for achieving complete response in partial responding/recurring warts with topical podophyllin alone [187]. It is safe for use in immune compromised individuals [179,188]. It is found useful in treatment of large wart as a monotherapy seen in B-cell lymphoma following Rituximab [179]. It has been possible to achieve complete remission of large wart in immune compromised individual after surgical debulking [188]. Combining with interferon alpha does not seem to offer any additional advantage [186].

### Cyclophosphamide

Large warts are associated with significant immune suppression via increased Treg cells and are believed to be responsible for partial response/recurrence following therapy. Oral cyclophosphamide (50mg/day for a week) is found useful in depleting Treg cells. Anecdotal case reports suggest its usefulness in achieving complete response as a standalone therapy for newly diagnosed and recurrent anogenital warts [189]. When used with laser therapy for large wart it helps in achieving and maintaining response. Recurrences are amenable to re-administration of oral cyclophosphamide [190]. This is achieved by altering milieu of lesion to normal.

### Conclusion

Large warts are difficult to treat. There are no guidelines for its management. It is possible to achieve complete response with intralesional immunotherapy like Candida antigen, CADI-05 or antiviral Cidofovir. Quadrilateral HPV vaccine is also useful. Combination of ablation of lesion using various modalities with topical immunotherapy or antiviral is also useful.

### Conflict of Interest

I have no conflict of interest since it is a review of published information. However, I am an employee of Cadila Pharmaceuticals limited who is a manufacturer of CADI-05.

### References

1. de Villiers EM, Fauquet C, Broker TR, Bernard HU, Zur Hausen H (2004) Classification of papillomaviruses. *Virology* 324(1): 17-27.
2. Scheinfeld N, Lehman DS (2006) An evidence-based review of medical and surgical treatments of genital warts. *Dermatol Online J* 12(3): 5.
3. Cheah PL, Looi LM (1998) Biology and pathological associations of the human papillomaviruses: a review. *Malays J Pathol* 20(1): 1-10.
4. Sasagawa T, Takagi H, Makinoda S (2012) Immune responses against human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and evasion of host defense in cervical cancer. *J Infect Chemother* 18(6): 807-815.
5. Yamada R, Sasagawa T, Kirumbi LW, Kingoro A, Karanja DK, et al. (2008) Human papillomavirus infection and cervical abnormalities in Nairobi, Kenya, an area with a high prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus infection. *J Med Virol* 80(5): 847-855.
6. Mulhem E, Pinelis S (2011) Treatment of nongenital cutaneous warts. *Am Fam Physician* 84(3): 288-293.

7. Kodner CM, Nasraty S (2004) Management of genital warts. *Am Fam Physician* 70(12): 2335-2342.
8. Doorbar J, Quint W, Banks L, Bravo IG, Stoler M, et al. (2012) The biology and life-cycle of human papillomaviruses. *Vaccine* 30(Suppl 5): F55-F70.
9. Mui UN, Haley CT, Tyring SK (2017) *Viral Oncology: Molecular Biology and Pathogenesis*. *J Clin Med*.
10. Yoo H, Won SS, Choi HC, Yoon TJ, Ye SK, et al. (2005) Detection and identification of human papillomavirus types isolated from Korean patients with flat warts. *Microbiol Immunol* 49(7): 633-638.
11. Davis MD, Gostout BS, McGovern RM, Persing DH, Schut RL, et al. (2000) Large plantar wart caused by human papillomavirus-66 and resolution by topical cidofovir therapy. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 43(2 Pt 2): 340-343.
12. Porro AM, Alchorne MM, Mota GR, Michalany N, Pignatari AC, et al. (2003) Detection and typing of human papillomavirus in cutaneous warts of patients infected with human immunodeficiency virus type 1. *Br J Dermatol* 149(6): 1192-1199.
13. Majewski S, Jablonska S, Favre M, Orth G (2001) Human papillomavirus type 7 and butcher's warts. *Arch Dermatol* 137(12): 1655-1656.
14. Torres Poveda K, Bahena Román M, Madrid González C, Burguete García AI, Bermúdez Morales VH, et al. (2014) Role of IL-10 and TGF-β1 in local immunosuppression in HPV-associated cervical neoplasia. *World J Clin Oncol* 5(4): 753-763.
15. Scott M, Stites DP, Moscicki AB (1999) Th1 cytokine patterns in cervical human papillomavirus infection. *Clin Diagn Lab Immunol* 6(5): 751-755.
16. Arany I, Evans T, Tyring SK (1998) Tissue specific HPV expression and down regulation of local immune responses in condylomas from HIV seropositive individuals. *Sex Transm Infect* 1998; 74(5): 349-353.
17. Coleman N, Birley HD, Renton AM, Hanna NE, Ryait BK, et al. (1994) Immunological events in regressing genital warts. *Am J Clin Pathol* 102(6): 768-774.
18. Shi YJ, Yang J, Yang W (2013) Mechanistic investigation of immunosuppression in patients with condyloma acuminata. *Mol Med Rep* 8(2): 480-486.
19. Xu Y, Zhu KJ, Zhu N, Jiang DH, Chen XZ, et al. (2009) Expression of Foxp3+CD4+CD25+ regulatory T cells and Th1/Th2, Tc1/Tc2 profiles in the peripheral blood of patients with condyloma acuminatum. *Clin Exp Dermatol* 34(2): 229-235.
20. Narayan S, Choyce A, Linedale R, Saunders NA, Dahler A, et al. (2009) Epithelial expression of human papillomavirus type 16 E7 protein results in peripheral CD8 T-cell suppression mediated by CD4+CD25+ T cells. *Eur J Immunol* 39(2): 481-490.
21. Li L, Zhou ZG, Zeng K, Liang LP, Zhou XY, et al. (2003) Changes in peripheral blood Th1/Th2 cell balance in patients with condyloma acuminatum. *Di Yi Jun Yi Da Xue Xue Bao* 23(7): 737-739.
22. Cao Y, Zhao J, Lei Z, Shen S, Liu C, et al. (2008) Local accumulation of FOXP3+ regulatory T cells: evidence for an immune evasion mechanism in patients with large condylomata acuminata. *J Immunol* 180(11): 7681-7686.
23. Arany I, Tyring SK (1996) Status of local cellular immunity in interferon-responsive and -nonresponsive human papillomavirus-associated lesions. *Sex Transm Dis* 23(6): 475-480.
24. Grassegger A, Rollinger Holzinger I, Zelger BW et al. (1997) Spontaneous or interferon-gamma-induced T-cell infiltration, HLA-DR and ICAM-1 expression in genitoanal warts are associated with TH1 or mixed TH1/TH2 cytokine mRNA expression profiles. *Arch. Dermatol. Res.* 289(5): 243-250.

25. Resta L, Troia M, Russo S, Colucci GA, Sabatini R, et al. (1992) Variations of lymphocyte sub-populations in vulvar condylomata during therapy with beta-interferon. *Eur J Gynaecol Oncol* 13(5): 440-444.
26. Fierlbeck G, Schiebel U, Müller C (1989) Immuno histology of genital warts in different stages of regression after therapy with interferon gamma. *Dermatologica* 179(4): 191-195.
27. Arany I, Tyring SK (2009) Activation of local cell-mediated immunity in interferon-responsive patients with human papillomavirus-associated lesions. *Journal of Interferon & Cytokine Research* 16(6): 453-460.
28. Abdel Hady ES, Martin Hirsch P, Duggan Keen M, Stern PL, Moore JV, et al. (2001) Immunological and viral factors associated with the response of vulval intraepithelial neoplasia to photodynamic therapy. *Cancer Res* 61(1): 192-196.
29. Arany I, Tyring SK, Brysk MM, Stanley MA, Tomai MA, et al. (2000) Correlation between pretreatment levels of interferon response genes and clinical responses to an immune response modifier (Imiquimod) in genital warts. *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy* 44(7): 1869-1873.
30. Arany I, Brysk MM, Brysk H, Tyring SK (1996) Response to interferon treatment decreases with epidermal dedifferentiation in condylomas. *Antiviral Res* 32(1): 19-26.
31. Tyring SK, Cauda R, Ghanta V, Hiramoto R (1988) Activation of natural killer cell function during interferon-alpha treatment of patients with condyloma acuminatum is predictive of clinical response. *J Biol Regul Homeost Agents* 2(2): 63-66.
32. Arany I, Tyring SK, Stanley MA, Tomai MA, Miller RL, et al. (1999) Enhancement of the innate and cellular immune response in patients with genital warts treated with topical imiquimod cream 5%. *Antiviral Res* 43(1): 55-63.
33. Tyring SK, Arany I, Stanley MA, Tomai MA, Miller RL, et al. (1998) A randomized, controlled, molecular study of condylomata acuminata clearance during treatment with imiquimod. *J Infect Dis* 178(2): 551-555.
34. Tyring SK, Arany I, Stanley MA, Stoler MH, Tomai MA, et al. (1998) Mechanism of action of imiquimod 5% cream in the treatment of anogenital warts. *Prim. Prim Care Update Ob Gyns* 5(4): 151-152.
35. Chang DY, Song SH, You S, Lee J, Kim J, et al. (2014) Programmed death-1 (PD-1)-dependent functional impairment of CD4(+) T cells in recurrent genital papilloma. *Clin Exp Med* 14(3): 305-313.
36. Kyriakis KP, Balamotis AK, Katsarou Katsari A, Tosca AD (1995) Recurrent condylomata acuminata: how routine immediate and delayed hypersensitivity parameters might provide a clue to their immunopathogenesis. *Eur J Clin Invest* 25(12): 906-909.
37. Thurgar E, Barton S, Karner C, Edwards SJ (2016) Clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of interventions for the treatment of anogenital warts: systematic review and economic evaluation. *Health Technol Assess* 20(24): v-vi, 1-486.
38. Majid I, Imran S (2013) Immunotherapy with intralesional Candida albicans antigen in resistant or recurrent warts: a study. *Indian J Dermatol* 58(5): 360-365.
39. Johnson SM, Roberson PK, Horn TD (2001) Intralesional injection of mumps or Candida skin test antigens: a novel immunotherapy for warts. *Arch Dermatol* 137(4): 451-455.
40. Horn TD, Johnson SM, Helm RM, Roberson PK (2005) Intralesional immunotherapy of warts with mumps, Candida, and Trichophyton skin test antigens: a single-blinded, randomized, and controlled trial. *Arch Dermatol* 141(5): 589-594.
41. Nofal A, Marei A, Amer A, Amen H (2017) Significance of interferon gamma in the prediction of successful therapy of common warts by intralesional injection of Candida antigen. *Int J Dermatol* 56(10): 1003-1009.
42. Khozeimeh F, Jabbari Azad F, Mahboubi Oskouei Y, Jafari M, Tehranian S, et al. (2017) Intralesional immunotherapy compared to cryotherapy in the treatment of warts. *Int J Dermatol* 56(4): 474-478.
43. Muñoz Garza FZ, Roé Crespo E, Torres Pradilla M, Aguilera Peirò P, Baltà Cruz S, et al. (2015) Intralesional Candida Antigen Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Recalcitrant and Multiple Warts in Children. *Pediatr Dermatol* 32(6): 797-801.
44. Alikhan A, Griffin JR, Newman CC (2016) Use of Candida antigen injections for the treatment of verruca vulgaris: A two-year mayo clinic experience. *J Dermatol Treat* 27(4): 355-358.
45. Wong A, Crawford RI (2013) Intralesional Candida antigen for common warts in people with HIV. *J Cutan Med Surg* 17(5): 313-315.
46. Ramírez Fort MK, Au SC, Javed SA, Loo DS (2014) Management of cutaneous human papillomavirus infection: pharmacotherapies. *Curr Probl Dermatol* 45: 175-185.
47. Kim KH, Horn TD, Pharis J, Kincannon J, Jones R, et al. (2010) Phase 1 clinical trial of intralesional injection of Candida antigen for the treatment of warts. *Arch Dermatol* 146(12): 1431-1433.
48. Wilmer EN, Burkhart CN, Morrell DS (2013) Goodbye warts, hello vitiligo: Candida antigen-induced depigmentation. *Pediatr Dermatol* 30(6): e214-215.
49. Perman M, Sterling JB, Gaspari A (2005) The painful purple digit: an alarming complication of Candida albicans antigen treatment of recalcitrant warts. *Dermat* 16(1): 38-40.
50. Kollipara R, Ekhlassi E, Downing C, Guidry J, Lee M, et al. (2015) Advancements in Pharmacotherapy for Noncancerous Manifestations of HPV. *J Clin Med* 4(5): 832-846.
51. Pandey RK, Sodhi A, Biswas SK, Dahiya Y, Dhillon MK (2012) Mycobacterium indicus pranii mediates macrophage activation through TLR2 and NOD2 in a MyD88 dependent manner. *Vaccine* 30(39): 5748-5754.
52. Ahmad F, Mani J, Kumar P, Haridas S, Upadhyay P, et al. (2011) Activation of anti-tumor immune response and reduction of regulatory T cells with Mycobacterium indicus pranii (MIP) therapy in tumor bearing mice. *PLoS One* 6(9): e25424.
53. Banerjee S, Halder K, Ghosh S, Bose A, Majumdar S (2015) The combination of a novel immunomodulator with a regulatory T cell suppressing antibody (DTA-1) regress advanced stage B16F10 solid tumor by repolarizing tumor associated macrophages in situ. *Oncoimmunology* 4(3): e995559.
54. Rakshit S, Ponnusamy M, Papanna S, Saha B, Ahmed A, et al. (2012) Immunotherapeutic efficacy of Mycobacterium indicus pranii in eliciting anti-tumor T cell responses: critical roles of IFN $\gamma$ . *Int J Cancer* 130(4): 865-875.
55. Kharkar R (2002) Immune recovery in HIV with Mycobacterium W. *J Indian Med Assoc* 100(9): 578-579.
56. Khamar B, O Donnell M, Belani PC (2012) Intradermal toll like receptor-2 (TLR2) agonist mycobacterium w (Cadi-05) in the treatment of BCG refractory non muscle invasive transitional cell carcinoma of bladder. *Jourlna of Immunotherapy*.
57. Mosca PJ, Nair SG, Ayre SK, Wenjin Shi RN, Sherrine Edi, et al. (2010) Immunologic Therapy with Cadi-05 for the Treatment of Advanced Melanoma.
58. Khullar G, Narang T, De D, Nahar Saikia U, Dogra S, et al. (2017) Recalcitrant giant condyloma acuminatum treated successfully with a novel combination of Mycobacterium indicus pranii immunotherapy and acitretin. *Int J STD AIDS* 28(11): 1155-1157.
59. Sardana K, Goel K, Madan A, Garg VK (2016) Can We Predict the Effectiveness of Intralesional Immunotherapy in Recalcitrant Warts? *Skinmed* 14(6): 413-421.

60. Thappa DM, Chiramel MJ (2016) Evolving role of immunotherapy in the treatment of refractory warts. *Indian Dermatol Online J* 7(5): 364-370.
61. Dhakar AK, Dogra S, Vinay K, Sarangal R, Kanwar AJ, et al. (2016) Intralesional Mycobacterium w Vaccine Versus Cryotherapy in Treatment of Refractory Extragenital Warts: A Randomized, Open-Label, Comparative Study. *J Cutan Med Surg* 20(2): 123-129.
62. Singh S, Chouhan K, Gupta S (2014) Intralesional immunotherapy with killed Mycobacterium indicus pranii vaccine for the treatment of extensive cutaneous warts. *Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol* 80(6): 509-514.
63. Garg S, Baveja S (2014) Intralesional immunotherapy for difficult to treat warts with Mycobacterium w vaccine. *J Cutan Aesthetic Surg* 7(4): 203-208.
64. Kumar P, Dar L, Saldiwal S, Varma S, Datt Upadhyay A, et al. (2014) Intralesional injection of Mycobacterium w vaccine vs imiquimod, 5%, cream in patients with anogenital warts: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Dermatol* 150(10): 1072-1078.
65. Meena JK, Malhotra AK, Mathur DK, Mathur DC (2013) Intralesional immunotherapy with Mycobacterium w vaccine in patients with multiple cutaneous warts: uncontrolled open study. *JAMA Dermatol* 149(2): 237-239.
66. Gupta S, Malhotra AK, Verma KK, Sharma VK (2008) Intralesional immunotherapy with killed Mycobacterium w vaccine for the treatment of ano-genital warts: an open label pilot study. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 22(9): 1089-1093.
67. Smith SP, Baxendale HE, Sterling JC (2017) Clearance of recalcitrant warts in a patient with idiopathic immune deficiency following administration of the quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine. (2017) *Clin Exp Dermatol* 42(3): 306-308.
68. Martín JM, Escandell I, Ayala D, Jordá E (2016) Spontaneous Remission of Recalcitrant Warts in Girls After Human Papillomavirus Vaccination. *Actas Dermosifiliogr* 107(6): 533-535.
69. Moscato GM, Di Matteo G, Ciotti M, Di Bonito P, Andreoni M, et al. (2016) Dual response to human papilloma virus vaccine in an immunodeficiency disorder: resolution of plantar warts and persistence of condylomas. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 30(7): 1212-1213.
70. Abeck D, Fölster-Holst R (2015) Quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccination: a promising treatment for recalcitrant cutaneous warts in children. *Acta Derm Venereol* 95(8): 1017-1019.
71. Landini MM, Borgogna C, Peretti A, Doorbar J, Griffin H, et al. (2015) Identification of the skin virome in a boy with widespread human papillomavirus-2-positive warts that completely regressed after administration of tetravalent human papillomavirus vaccine. *Br J Dermatol* 173(2): 597-600.
72. Silling S, Wieland U, Werner M, Pfister H, Potthoff A, et al. (2014) Resolution of novel human papillomavirus-induced warts after HPV vaccination. *Emerg Infect Dis* 20(1): 142-145.
73. Daniel BS, Murrell DF (2013) Complete resolution of chronic multiple verruca vulgaris treated with quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine. *JAMA Dermatol* 149(3): 370-372.
74. Landis MN, Lookingbill DP, Sluzevich JC (2012) Recalcitrant plantar warts treated with recombinant quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 67(2): e73-74.
75. Kreuter A, Waterboer T, Wieland U (2010) Regression of cutaneous warts in a patient with WILD syndrome following recombinant quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccination. *Arch Dermatol* 146(10): 1196-1197.
76. Venugopal SS, Murrell DF (2010) Recalcitrant cutaneous warts treated with recombinant quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (types 6, 11, 16, and 18) in a developmentally delayed, 31-year-old white man. *Arch Dermatol* 146(5): 475-477.
77. De Clercq E (2003) Clinical potential of the acyclic nucleoside phosphonates cidofovir, adefovir, and tenofovir in treatment of DNA virus and retrovirus infections. *Clin Microbiol Rev* 16(4): 569-596.
78. Stern PL, van der Burg SH, Hampson IN, Broker TR, Fiander A, et al. (2012) Therapy of human papillomavirus-related disease. *Vaccine* 30 Suppl 5: F71-82.
79. Amine A, Rivera S, Opolon P, Mehdi Dekkal, Biard SFD, et al. (2009) Novel anti-metastatic action of cidofovir mediated by inhibition of E6/E7, CXCR4 and Rho/ROCK signaling in HPV tumor cells. *PloS One* 4(3): e5018.
80. Donne AJ, Hampson L, He XT, Day PJ, Salway F, et al. (2009) Potential risk factors associated with the use of cidofovir to treat benign human papillomavirus-related disease. *Antivir Ther* 14(7): 939-952.
81. Christensen ND, Pickel MD, Budgeon LR, Kreider JW (2000) In vivo anti-papillomavirus activity of nucleoside analogues including cidofovir on CRPV-induced rabbit papillomas. *Antiviral Res.* 48(2): 131-142.
82. Christensen ND, Han R, Cladel NM, Pickel MD (2001) Combination treatment with intralesional cidofovir and viral-DNA vaccination cures large cottontail rabbit papillomavirus-induced papillomas and reduces recurrences. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 45(4): 1201-1209.
83. Padilla España L, Del Boz J, Fernández Morano T, Arenas Villafranca J, de Troya Martín M, et al. (2014) Topical cidofovir for plantar warts. *Dermatol Ther* 27(2): 89-93.
84. Padilla España L, Del Boz J, Fernández Morano T, Arenas-Villafranca J, de Troya M, et al. (2014) Successful treatment of periungual warts with topical cidofovir. *Dermatol Ther* 27(6): 337-342.
85. Broganelli P, Chiaretta A, Fragnelli B, Bernengo MG (2012) Intralesional cidofovir for the treatment of multiple and recalcitrant cutaneous viral warts. *Dermatol Ther* 25(5): 468-471.
86. Henrickson SE, Treat JR (2017) Topical Cidofovir for Recalcitrant Verrucae in Individuals with Severe Combined Immunodeficiency After Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation. *Pediatr Dermatol* 34(1): e24-e25.
87. Cleary A, Watson R, McMahon CJ (2014) Successful treatment of refractory cutaneous warts using topical 3% cidofovir in a child after heart transplant. *J Heart Lung Transplant* 33(9): 971-972.
88. Fernández Morano T, Del Boz J, Frieyro Elichegui M, Repiso JB, Padilla España L, et al. (2013) [Treatment of anogenital warts with topical cidofovir]. *Enferm Infecc Microbiol Clin* 31(4): 222-226.
89. Gupta M, Bayliss SJ, Berk DR (2013) Topical cidofovir for refractory verrucae in children. *Pediatr Dermatol* 30(1): 131-134.
90. Fernández Morano T, del Boz J, González Carrascosa M, Tortajada B, de Troya M (2011) Topical cidofovir for viral warts in children. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 25(12): 1487-1489.
91. Zabawski EJ, Sands B, Goetz D, Naylor M, Cockerell CJ, et al. (1997) Treatment of verruca vulgaris with topical cidofovir. *JAMA* 278(15): 1236.
92. Moore E, Kovarik C (2015) Intralesional cidofovir for the treatment of a plantar wart. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 73(1): e23-e24.
93. Blouin MM, Cloutier R, Noël R (2012) Intralesional cidofovir in the treatment of cutaneous warts in a renal transplant patient. *J Cutan Med Surg* 16(6): 462-464.
94. Gormley RH, Kovarik CL (2012) Human papillomavirus-related genital disease in the immunocompromised host: Part II. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 66(6): 883.
95. Padilla España L, Del Boz J, Fernández-Morano T, Escudero-Santos I, Arenas-Villafranca J, et al. (2016) Recalcitrant warts and topical



- cidofovir: predictive factors of good response. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 30(7): 1218-1220.
96. Cha S, Johnston L, Natkunam Y, Brown J (2005) Treatment of verruca vulgaris with topical cidofovir in an immunocompromised patient: a case report and review of the literature. *Transpl Infect Dis* 7(3-4): 158-161.
  97. D'Souza GF, Zins JE (2017) Severe Plantar Warts in an Immunocompromised Patient. *N Engl J Med* 377(3): 267.
  98. Nambudiri VE, Mutyambizi K, Walls AC, Fisher DC, Bleday R, et al. (2013) Successful treatment of perianal giant condyloma acuminatum in an immunocompromised host with systemic interleukin 2 and topical cidofovir. *JAMA Dermatol* 149(9): 1068-1070.
  99. Loo SKF, Tang WYM (2015) Warts (non-genital). *BMJ Clin Evid*.
  100. Bertolotti A, Dupin N, Bouscarat F, Milpied B, Derancourt C (2017) Cryotherapy to treat anogenital warts in nonimmunocompromised adults: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 77(3): 518-526.
  101. Kwok CS, Gibbs S, Bennett C, Holland R, Abbott R (2012) Topical treatments for cutaneous warts. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* (9): CD001781.
  102. Fathi R, Tsoukas MM (2014) Genital warts and other HPV infections: established and novel therapies. *Clin Dermatol* 32(2): 299-306.
  103. Stone KM, Becker TM, Hadgu A, Kraus SJ (1990) Treatment of external genital warts: a randomised clinical trial comparing podophyllin, cryotherapy, and electrodesiccation. *Genitourin Med* 66(1): 16-19.
  104. Godley MJ, Bradbeer CS, Gellan M, Thin RN (1987) Cryotherapy compared with trichloroacetic acid in treating genital warts. *Genitourin Med* 63(6): 390-392.
  105. Handley JM, Maw RD, Horner T, Lawther H, McNeill T, et al. (1992) Non-specific immunity in patients with primary anogenital warts treated with interferon alpha plus cryotherapy or cryotherapy alone. *Acta Derm Venereol* 72(1): 39-40.
  106. Bruggink SC, Gussekloo J, Berger MY, Zaaier K, Assendelft WJ, et al. (2010) Cryotherapy with liquid nitrogen versus topical salicylic acid application for cutaneous warts in primary care: randomized controlled trial. *CMAJ* 182(15): 1624-1630.
  107. Duus BR, Philipsen T, Christensen JD, Lundvall F, Søndergaard J (1985) Refractory condylomata acuminata: a controlled clinical trial of carbon dioxide laser versus conventional surgical treatment. *Genitourin Med* 61(1): 59-61.
  108. Khawaja HT (1989) Podophyllin versus scissor excision in the treatment of perianal condylomata acuminata: a prospective study. *Br J Surg* 76(10): 1067-1068.
  109. Jensen SL (1985) Comparison of podophyllin application with simple surgical excision in clearance and recurrence of perianal condylomata acuminata. *Lancet* 2(8465): 1146-1148.
  110. Bellina JH (1983) The use of the carbon dioxide laser in the management of condyloma acuminatum with eight-year follow-up. *American Journal of obstetrics & Gynecology* 147(4): 375-378.
  111. Garden JM, O'Banion MK, Shelnitz LS, Pinski KS, Bakus AD, et al. (1988) Papillomavirus in the vapor of carbon dioxide laser-treated verrucae. *JAMA* 259(8): 1199-1202.
  112. Badawi A, Shokeir HA, Salem AM, Soliman M, Fawzy S, et al. (2002) Treatment of anogenital warts by pulsed dye laser. *J Cosmet Laser Ther* 28(4): 350-352.
  113. Logan RA, Zachary CB (1989) Outcome of carbon dioxide laser therapy for persistent cutaneous viral warts. *Br J Dermatol* 121(1): 99-105.
  114. Hruza GJ (1997) Laser treatment of warts and other epidermal and dermal lesions. *Dermatol Clin* 15(3): 487-506.
  115. Ozluer SM, Chuen BY, Barlow RJ, Markey AC (2001) Hypertrophic scar formation following carbon dioxide laser ablation of plantar warts in cyclosporin-treated patients. *Br J Dermatol* 145(6): 1005-1007.
  116. Robson KJ, Cunningham NM, Kruzan KL, Patel DS, Kreiter CD, et al. (2000) Pulsed-dye laser versus conventional therapy in the treatment of warts: a prospective randomized trial. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 43(2 Pt 1): 275-280.
  117. Sparreboom EE, Luijckx HG, Luiting Welkenhuyzen HA, Willems PW, Groeneveld CP, et al. (2014) Pulsed dye laser treatment is effective in the treatment of recalcitrant viral warts. *Dermatol Surg off Publ Am Soc Dermatol* 34(1): 67-72.
  118. Sterling JC, Gibbs S, Haque Hussain SS, Mohd Mustapa MF, Handfield Jones SE (2014) British Association of Dermatologists' guidelines for the management of cutaneous warts 2014. *Br J Dermatol* 171(4): 696-712.
  119. Tan OT, Hurwitz RM, Stafford TJ (1993) Pulsed dye laser treatment of recalcitrant verrucae: a preliminary report. *Lasers Surg Med* 13(1): 127-137.
  120. Kenton Smith J, Tan ST (1999) Pulsed dye laser therapy for viral warts. *Br J Plast Surg* 52(7): 554-558.
  121. Vargas H, Hove CR, Dupree ML, Williams EF (2002) The treatment of facial verrucae with the pulsed dye laser. *The Laryngoscope* 112(9): 1573-1576.
  122. Akhyani M, Ehsani A, Noormohammadpour P, Roghieh Shamsodini, Sahar Azizahari, et al. (2011) Comparing Pulsed-dye Laser with Cryotherapy in the Treatment of Common Warts. *Journal of Lasers in Medical Sciences* 1(1): 14-19.
  123. Nguyen J, Korta DZ, Chapman LW, Kelly KM (2016) Laser Treatment of Nongenital Verrucae: A Systematic Review. *JAMA Dermatol* 152(9): 1025-1034.
  124. Park HS, Choi WS (2008) Pulsed dye laser treatment for viral warts: a study of 120 patients. *J Dermatol* 35(8): 491-498.
  125. Ross BS, Levine VJ, Nehal K, Tse Y, Ashinoff R, et al. (1999) Pulsed dye laser treatment of warts: an update. *Dermatol Surg* 25(5): 377-380.
  126. Sethuraman G, Richards KA, Hiremagalore RN, Wagner A (2010) Effectiveness of pulsed dye laser in the treatment of recalcitrant warts in children. *Dermatol Surg* 36(1): 58-65.
  127. Pollock B, Sheehan Dare R (2002) Pulsed dye laser and intralesional bleomycin for treatment of resistant viol hand warts. *Lasers Surg Med* 30(2): 135-140.
  128. Karrer S, Bosserhoff AK, Weiderer P, Landthaler M, Szeimies RM (2004) Keratinocyte-derived cytokines after photodynamic therapy and their paracrine induction of matrix metalloproteinases in fibroblasts. *Br J Dermatol* 151(4): 776-783.
  129. Giomi B, Pagnini F, Cappuccini A, Bianchi B, Tiradritti L, et al. (2011) Immunological activity of photodynamic therapy for genital warts. *Br J Dermatol* 164(2): 448-451.
  130. Bu ZY, Yu XH, Wu LM, Zhong JB, Yang P, et al. (2017) Normalization of regulatory T cells, serum TGF-β1, and LTN after 5-aminolevulinic acid-photodynamic therapy in patients with condyloma acuminata. *Exp Ther Med* 13(6): 3327-3332.
  131. Kim JE, Kim SJ, Hwang JI, Lee KJ, Park HJ, et al. (2012) New proposal for the treatment of viral warts with intralesional injection of 5-aminolevulinic acid photodynamic therapy. *J Dermatolog Treat* 23(3): 192-195.

132. Li X, Wang X, Gu J, Ma Y, Liu Z, et al. (2013) Needle-free injection of 5-aminolevulinic acid in photodynamic therapy for the treatment of condylomata acuminata. *Exp Ther Med* 6(1): 236-240.
133. Lee Y, Baron ED (2011) Photodynamic therapy: current evidence and applications in dermatology. *Semin Cutan Med Surg* 30(4): 199-209.
134. Caucanas M, Gillard P, Vanhooteghem O (2010) Efficiency of photodynamic therapy in the treatment of diffuse facial viral warts in an immunosuppressed patient: towards a gold standard? *Case Rep Dermatol* 2(3): 207-213.
135. Kim M, Jung HY, Park HJ (2015) Topical PDT in the Treatment of Benign Skin Diseases: Principles and New Applications. *Int J Mol Sci* 16(10): 23259-23278.
136. Mizuki D, Kaneko T, Hanada K (2003) Successful treatment of topical photodynamic therapy using 5-aminolevulinic acid for plane warts. *Br J Dermatol* 149(5): 1087-1088.
137. Lu YG, Wu JJ, He Y, Yang HZ, Yang YD (2010) Efficacy of topical aminolevulinic acid photodynamic therapy for the treatment of verruca plana. *Photomed Laser Surg* 28(4): 561-563.
138. Wang XL, Wang HW, Wang HS, Xu SZ, Liao KH, et al. (2004) Topical 5-aminolevulinic acid-photodynamic therapy for the treatment of urethral condylomata acuminata. *Br J Dermatol* 151(4): 880-885.
139. Liang J, Lu XN, Tang H, Zhang Z, Fan J, et al. (2009) Evaluation of photodynamic therapy using topical aminolevulinic acid hydrochloride in the treatment of condylomata acuminata: a comparative, randomized clinical trial. *Photodermatol Photoimmunol Photomed* 25(6): 293-297.
140. Stender IM, Lock Andersen J, Wulf HC (1999) Recalcitrant hand and foot warts successfully treated with photodynamic therapy with topical 5-aminolevulinic acid: a pilot study. *Clin Exp Dermatol* 24(3): 154-159.
141. Szeimies RM, Schleyer V, Moll I, Stocker M, Landthaler M, et al. (2009) Adjuvant photodynamic therapy does not prevent recurrence of condylomata acuminata after carbon dioxide laser ablation-A phase III, prospective, randomized, bicentric, double-blind study. *Dermatol Surg* 35(5): 757-764.
142. Stender IM, Na R, Fogh H, Gluud C, Wulf HC (2000) Photodynamic therapy with 5-aminolevulinic acid or placebo for recalcitrant foot and hand warts: randomised double-blind trial. *Lancet* 355(9208): 963-966.
143. Nucci V, Torchia D, Cappugi P (2010) Treatment of anogenital condylomata acuminata with topical photodynamic therapy: report of 14 cases and review. *Int J Infect Dis* 14 Suppl 3: e280-e282.
144. Lacey CJN, Woodhall SC, Wikstrom A, Ross J (2013) European guideline for the management of anogenital warts. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 27(3): e263-e270.
145. Arican O, Guneri F, Bilgic K, Karaoglu A (2004) Topical imiquimod 5% cream in external anogenital warts: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. *J Dermatol* 31(8): 627-631.
146. Kreuter A, Potthoff A, Brockmeyer NH, Gambichler T, Stücker M, et al. (2008) et al. Imiquimod leads to a decrease of human papillomavirus DNA and to a sustained clearance of anal intraepithelial neoplasia in HIV-infected men. *J Invest Dermatol* 128(8): 2078-2083.
147. van Poelgeest MI, van Seters M, van Beurden M, Kwappenberg KM, Heijmans Antonissen C, et al. (2005) Detection of human papillomavirus (HPV) 16 specific CD4+ T-cell immunity in patients with persistent HPV16-induced vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia in relation to clinical impact of imiquimod treatment. *Clin Cancer Res* 11(14): 5273-5280.
148. Winters U, Daayana S, Lear JT, Tomlinson AE, Elkord E, et al. (2008) Clinical and immunologic results of a phase II trial of sequential imiquimod and photodynamic therapy for vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia. *Clin Cancer Res* 14(16): 5292-5299.
149. Komericki P, Akkiliç Materna M, Strimitzer T, Aberer W (2011) Efficacy and safety of imiquimod versus podophyllotoxin in the treatment of anogenital warts. *Sex Transm Dis* 38(3): 216-218.
150. Beutner KR, Tyring SK, Trofatter KF, Douglas JM, Spruance S, et al. (1998) Imiquimod, a patient-applied immune-response modifier for treatment of external genital warts. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 42(4): 789-794.
151. Beutner KR, Spruance SL, Hougham AJ, Fox TL, Owens ML, et al. (1998) Treatment of genital warts with an immune-response modifier (imiquimod). *J Am Acad Dermatol* 38(2 Pt 1): 230-239.
152. Edwards L, Ferenczy A, Eron L, Baker D, Owens ML, et al. (1998) Self-administered topical 5% imiquimod cream for external anogenital warts. HPV Study Group. *Human Papilloma Virus. Arch Dermatol* 134(1): 25-30.
153. Fife KH, Ferenczy A, Douglas JM, Brown DR, Smith M, et al. (2001) Treatment of external genital warts in men using 5% imiquimod cream applied three times a week, once daily, twice daily, or three times a day. *Sex Transm Dis* 28(4): 226-231.
154. Garland SM, Waddell R, Mindel A, Denham IM, McCloskey JC (2006) An open-label phase II pilot study investigating the optimal duration of imiquimod 5% cream for the treatment of external genital warts in women. *Int J STD AIDS* 17(7): 448-452.
155. Schöfer H, Van Ophoven A, Henke U, Lenz T, Eul A (2006) Randomized, comparative trial on the sustained efficacy of topical imiquimod 5% cream versus conventional ablative methods in external anogenital warts. *Eur J Dermatol* 16(6): 642-648.
156. Hengge UR, Esser S, Schultewolter T, Behrendt C, Meyer T, et al. (2000) Self-administered topical 5% imiquimod for the treatment of common warts and molluscum contagiosum. *Br J Dermatol* 143(5): 1026-1031.
157. Smith WA, Siegel D, Lyon VB, Holland KE (2013) Psoriasiform eruption and oral ulcerations as adverse effects of topical 5% imiquimod treatment in children: a report of four cases. *Pediatr Dermatol* 30(6): e157-e160.
158. Rosenblatt A, de Campos Guidi HG (2012) Local and systemic adverse effects of imiquimod therapy for external anogenital warts in men: report of three cases. *Int J STD AIDS* 23(12): 909-910.
159. Zeng Y, Zheng YQ, Wang L (2014) Vagarious successful treatment of recalcitrant warts in combination with CO2 laser and imiquimod 5% cream. *J Cosmet Laser Ther* 16(6): 311-313.
160. Hoyme UB, Hagedorn M, Schindler AE, Schneede P, Hopfenmüller W, et al. (2002) Effect of adjuvant imiquimod 5% cream on sustained clearance of anogenital warts following laser treatment. *Infect Dis Obstet Gynecol* 10(2): 79-88.
161. Park SM, Kim GW, Mun JH, Song M, Kim HS, et al. Fractional Laser-Assisted Topical Imiquimod 5% Cream Treatment for Recalcitrant Common Warts in Children: A Pilot Study. *Dermatol Surg* 42(12): 1340-1346.
162. Viazis N, Vlachogiannakos J, Vasiliadis K, Theodoropoulos I, Saveriadias A, et al. (2007) Earlier eradication of intra-anal warts with argon plasma coagulator combined with imiquimod cream compared with argon plasma coagulator alone: a prospective, randomized trial. *Dis Colon Rectum* 50(12): 2173-2179.
163. Housman TS, Jorizzo JL (2002) Anecdotal reports of 3 cases illustrating a spectrum of resistant common warts treated with cryotherapy followed by topical imiquimod and salicylic acid. *J Am*

- Acad Dermatol 47(4 Suppl): S217-220.
164. Tucker SB, Ali A, Ransdell BL (2003) Plantar wart treatment with combination imiquimod and salicylic acid pads. *J Drugs Dermatol* 2(2): 124-126.
  165. Tyring SK (2012) Effect of Sinecatechins on HPV-Activated Cell Growth and Induction of Apoptosis. *J Clin Aesthetic Dermatol* 5(2): 34-41.
  166. Nguyen HP, Doan HQ, Rady P, Tyring SK (2015) Cellular signaling in sinecatechins-treated external genital and perianal warts: unraveling the mechanism of action of a botanical therapy. *Virol Sin* 30(3): 214-217.
  167. Harrison Nguyen, Hung Q Doan, David J Brunell, Peter L Rady, Stephen Keith Tyring (2014) Apoptotic gene expression in sinecatechins-treated external genital and perianal warts. *Viral Immunol* 27(10): 556-558.
  168. Doan HQ, Nguyen HP, Rady P, Tyring SK (2015) Expression patterns of immune-associated genes in external genital and perianal warts treated with sinecatechins. *Viral Immunol* 28(4): 236-240.
  169. Tyring SK (2012) Sinecatechins: Effects on HPV-Induced Enzymes Involved in Inflammatory Mediator Generation. *J Clin Aesthetic Dermatol* 5(1): 19-26.
  170. Tzellos TG, Sardeli C, Lallas A, Papazisis G, Chourdakis M, et al. (2011) Efficacy, safety and tolerability of green tea catechins in the treatment of external anogenital warts: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 25(3): 345-353.
  171. Gross G, Meyer KG, Pres H, Thielert C, Tawfik H, et al. (2007) A randomized, double-blind, four-arm parallel-group, placebo-controlled Phase II/III study to investigate the clinical efficacy of two galenic formulations of Polyphenon E in the treatment of external genital warts. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 21(10): 1404-1412.
  172. Stockfleth E, Beti H, Orasan R, Grigorian F, Mescheder A, et al. (2008) Topical Polyphenon E in the treatment of external genital and perianal warts: a randomized controlled trial. *Br J Dermatol* 158(6): 1329-1338.
  173. Tatti S, Swinehart JM, Thielert C, Tawfik H, Mescheder A, et al. (2008) Sinecatechins, a defined green tea extract, in the treatment of external anogenital warts: a randomized controlled trial. *Obstet Gynecol* 111(6): 1371-1379.
  174. Tatti S, Stockfleth E, Beutner KR, Tawfik H, Elsasser U, et al. (2010) Polyphenon E: a new treatment for external anogenital warts. *Br J Dermatol* 162(1): 176-184.
  175. On SC, Linkner RV, Haddican M, Yaroshinsky A, Gagliotti M, et al. (2014) A single-blinded randomized controlled study to assess the efficacy of twice daily application of sinecatechins 15% ointment when used sequentially with cryotherapy in the treatment of external genital warts. *J Drugs Dermatol* 13(11): 1400-1405.
  176. Juhl ME, Seferovic V, Antonijevic S, Kronic A (2016) Combined treatment of anogenital HPV infection with cryodestruction, podophyllin 25% and post-ablation immunomodulation with sinecatechins 15% ointment-a retrospective analysis. *Int J STD AIDS* 27(12): 1071-1078.
  177. Faluhelyi Z, Rodler I, Csejtei A, Tyring SK, Ember IA, et al. (2004) All-trans retinoic acid (ATRA) suppresses transcription of human papillomavirus type 16 (HPV16) in a dose-dependent manner. *Anticancer Res* 24(2B): 807-809.
  178. Olguin García MG, Jurado Santa Cruz F, Peralta Pedrero ML, Morales Sánchez MA (2015) A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial of oral isotretinoin in the treatment of recalcitrant facial flat warts. *J Dermatol Treat* 26(1): 78-82.
  179. Monastirli A, Matsouka P, Pasmazi E, Melachrinou M, Georgiou S, et al. (2005) Complete remission of recalcitrant viral warts under oral isotretinoin in a patient with low-grade B-cell lymphoma. *Acta Derm Venereol* 85(4): 358-360.
  180. Katz RA (1986) Isotretinoin treatment of recalcitrant warts in an immunosuppressed man. *Arch Dermatol* 122(1): 19-20.
  181. Kaur GJ, Brar BK, Kumar S, Brar SK, Singh B (2017) Evaluation of the efficacy and safety of oral isotretinoin versus topical isotretinoin in the treatment of plane warts: a randomized open trial. *Int J Dermatol* 56(12): 1352-1358.
  182. Miljkovic J (2012) A novel therapeutic approach to plane warts: a report on two cases. *Acta Dermatovenerol Alp Pannonica Adriat* 21(3): 63-64.
  183. Al Hamamy HR, Salman HA, Abdulsattar NA (2012) Treatment of plane warts with a low-dose oral isotretinoin. *ISRN Dermatology* 2012(2012): 1-3.
  184. Georgala S, Katoulis AC, Georgala C, Bozi E, Mortakis A (2004) Oral isotretinoin in the treatment of recalcitrant condylomata acuminata of the cervix: a randomised placebo controlled trial. *Sex Transm Infect* 80(3): 216-218.
  185. Tsambaos D, Georgiou S, Monastirli A, Sakkis T, Sagriotis A, et al. (1997) Treatment of condylomata acuminata with oral isotretinoin. *J Urol* 158(5): 1810-1812.
  186. Cardamakis EK, Kotoulas IG, Dimopoulos DP, Stathopoulos EN, Michopoulos JT, et al. (1996) Comparative study of systemic interferon alfa-2a with oral isotretinoin and oral isotretinoin alone in the treatment of recurrent condylomata accuminata. *Arch Gynecol Obstet* 258(1): 35-41.
  187. Jha AK, Sonthalia S, Ganguly S (2018) Oral isotretinoin as an adjunctive treatment for recurrent genital warts. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 78(2): e35-e36.
  188. Yew YW, Pan JY (2014) Complete remission of recalcitrant genital warts with a combination approach of surgical debulking and oral isotretinoin in a patient with systemic lupus erythematosus. *Dermatol Ther* 27(2): 79-82.
  189. Cao Y, Zhao J, Yang Z, Cai Z, Zhang B, et al. (2010) CD4+FOXP3+ regulatory T cell depletion by low-dose cyclophosphamide prevents recurrence in patients with large condylomata acuminata after laser therapy. *Clin Immunol* 136(1): 21-29.
  190. Zhang Y, Duan Y, Zhao J, Huang B, Cao YC (2013) Low-dose oral cyclophosphamide therapy is effective for condylomata acuminata. *Chin Med J (Engl)* 126(16): 3198-3199.



This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License  
DOI: [10.19080/OAJS.2018.09.555752](https://doi.org/10.19080/OAJS.2018.09.555752)

**Your next submission with Juniper Publishers  
will reach you the below assets**

- Quality Editorial service
- Swift Peer Review
- Reprints availability
- E-prints Service
- Manuscript Podcast for convenient understanding
- Global attainment for your research
- Manuscript accessibility in different formats  
**( Pdf, E-pub, Full Text, Audio)**
- Unceasing customer service

**Track the below URL for one-step submission**  
<https://juniperpublishers.com/online-submission.php>