



Genital Warts or Human Papilloma Virus – the basics

What is Human Papilloma Virus? (Human pap-illoma vi-rus)

- Human Papilloma Virus is usually called HPV.
- HPV is sometimes also called genital warts because HPV can cause warts on the genitals – on and around the penis, vagina or anus (bum).
- HPV is a sexually transmissible infection (STI).
- HPV is very common. Both women and men can get HPV.

How do you get HPV?

- You can get an HPV from having sex with someone who has HPV without using a condom. You can also get it from oral sex.
- HPV is more likely to be passed on by someone who has HPV if they have warts. But it can still be passed on if there are no warts.

Symptoms – how would I know if I got HPV?

- HPV can cause warts around the vagina, penis or anus (bum).
- The warts begin as small bumps or lumps. Sometimes the warts grow into clusters. They can feel rubbery and are often painless.
- The only way of knowing whether you have HPV is to get tested.

Testing for HPV

- Diagnosing HPV is simple and done at the clinic.
- You can get checked for HPV as part of your health check – just ask.
- Get tested for STIs at least every six to 12 months.

What's the treatment for HPV?

- There is no cure for HPV.
- Warts can be removed by freezing or laser treatment.



Preventing HPV – Vaccination

- There is a vaccine (or medicine) to protect against getting HPV.
- Most Australian girls and boys now get vaccinated against HPV at school.
- If you missed out on getting the vaccine in school, ask your clinic about getting vaccinated.
- If you get vaccinated for HPV it's still important to use condoms because condoms protect against other STIs.

What if I don't get warts removed?

- If you don't get warts removed they may get bigger.
- Having warts removed reduces the risk of passing on HPV to your sexual partners.

Let's look after our health and get tested STIs. If we all test and get treated, we can stop the spread of STIs in our community.