

Where to go

Confidential tests and treatment are available from:

(Most of these services are free. Please telephone first to see if you need an appointment)

Your GP or a doctor of your choice or

Sexual Health Helpline

(08) 9227 6178 or 1800 198 205 toll free
sexhelp@fpwa.org.au

Fremantle Hospital

Infectious Diseases, B2 Clinic
FREMANTLE
(08) 9431 2149

Royal Perth Hospital

Sexual Health Clinic, PERTH
(08) 9224 2178

FPWA-Sexual Health Services

NORTHBRIDGE
(08) 9227 6177 or 1800 198 205 toll free

Quarry Health Centre (For under 25's)

FREMANTLE
(08) 9430 4544

Women's Health Services

NORTHBRIDGE
(09) 9227 8122 or 1800 998 399 toll free

Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service

PERTH
(08) 9421 3888

And some regional Population Health Units and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

HealthInfo 1300 135 030

www.population.health.wa.gov.au

Communicable Disease Control Directorate

Department of Health
(08) 9388 4999

Regional Population Health Units (those in bold provide clinical services)

Albany	(08) 9842 7500
Broome	(08) 9194 1630
Bunbury	(08) 9781 2350
Carnarvon	(08) 9941 0560
Geraldton	(08) 9956 1985
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	(08) 9080 8200
Northam	(08) 9622 4320
South Hedland	(08) 9172 8333



Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program
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GENITAL WARTS
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Your
sexual
health

What are Genital Warts?

Genital warts are small lumps on the genitals which you can see or feel, but are usually painless.

They are caused by the genital wart virus (Human Papilloma Virus or HPV).

Genital warts can be on the vagina, vulva, cervix, anus or penis, and sometimes in the mouth or throat. They're different from the warts you can get on your hands and knees.

You catch genital warts by having sex with someone who has the genital wart virus, even if you can't see any warts. It can take many weeks, months, or even years before any genital warts show.

Why warts are important

Genital warts are very easy to catch and pass on to your partners.

Checking it out

Genital warts are very common. Most sexually active people have probably been exposed to the virus, but never get genital warts.

Genital warts may not always be obvious, such as when they occur on the cervix (the neck of the womb) or inside the urethra (the tube leading out from the bladder).

But, if you see or feel unusual lumps on your genitals, or if you have had sex with someone who has genital warts, then see a doctor.

The doctor can check for genital warts and any other sexually transmitted infection (STI).

Your partner should also be checked.

Treatment

Your doctor can treat genital warts in several ways, and will tell you the best one for you:

- podophyllotoxin paint (not suitable for pregnant women)
- cryotherapy (warts are frozen off with liquid nitrogen)
- imiquimod cream (not suitable for pregnant women)
- laser treatment
- surgical removal.

Don't use lotions made for other types of warts.

All sexual partners should be checked, and treated if they have genital warts.

Don't have sex when you have genital warts you can see or feel.

Avoid sex during the treatment period. Use condoms with your regular partner for 6 months after treatment as this is when genital warts are most likely to return.

Protecting yourself and your partner

The safest ways to protect against genital warts and other STIs are:

- **Have a long-term relationship** where neither of you is already infected, and neither of you has other partners.
- **Always use condoms.** Genital warts are passed on by direct skin-to-skin contact. Condoms reduce the risk, but **they only protect the area of skin covered by the condom.** Condoms are still the best way of protecting you against other STIs.
- **Limit your sex partners.** The fewer people you have sex with, the less chance of having sex with someone who has genital warts or other STIs.
- **Have regular STI check-ups.**

Vaccination

There is now a vaccine that protects women and girls against some genital warts and cervical cancer. Talk to your doctor about it.

Pap smears

Some HPV infections (not the same ones that cause warts) can develop into genital cancers in both men and women.

All sexually active women aged under 70 should have regular Pap smears to test for cervical cancer, even if they have been vaccinated.