
Treatments for HPV (original “Treatments for HPV” table has been altered by University Health Services, UC Berkeley to reflect current treatment – April 2000)

Cryotherapy (cry-oh-THAYR’-ah-pee) involves freezing the wart and a small margin of surrounding skin with substances such as liquid nitrogen. These compounds are usually applied with a cotton swab or are sprayed onto the skin.

Podophyllin (poh-DAH’-fill-in) is a chemical applied to the surface of the wart by a health care provider, though a patient-applied compound, **Podofilox**, is now available by prescription (see page 11).

Trichloroacetic acid (tri-chlohr-ah-SEE’-tik) (TCA) is a caustic agent also applied to the surface of warts by a health care provider.

LEEP (Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure) utilizes a fine wire loop instrument with a weak electrical current going through it to remove the abnormal cells on the cervix. The tissue removed is sent to the laboratory for evaluation. This can sometimes combine biopsy and treatment in the same procedure.

Laser therapy is the use of an intense light to destroy the warts and should be used only in complicated cases. Laser treatment is expensive, costing over \$1,000, requires anesthesia, and sometimes produces scarring.

Surgery (cutting off the warts) is also a method employed in troublesome cases, but it has the same disadvantages as laser therapy.

Interferon (in-ter-FEER’-ahn), an antiviral drug, has been used in several different ways, including injections into warts and topical preparations for the infected area.