

EXCISIONAL BIOPSY AND/OR LASER ABLATION OF CONDYLOMA

Condyloma accuminata are wart-like lesions caused by a few of the near 80 strains or types or strains of the human papilloma virus (HPV). The strains that cause sexually transmitted by sexual contact. The latency period from contact to growth has not been truly defined. In that regard, it may be possible for weeks, months, and perhaps even years to pass between exposure and development of the lesion(s). In women, condyloma present on the labia minor and majora, as well as within the vagina. Certain strains of HPV are known to cause cervical cancer. When left untreated, the individual lesions may grow in size and spread to other areas.

Over the years, condyloma has been treated in many different ways. All of the therapies are administered with the intent of destroying the individual lesion(s). The virus, however, is usually not destroyed and so recurrence (without repeat exposure) is quite possible.

Treatments include:

- Topical Therapy: medications applied only to the lesions that destroy on contact
- Antiviral Topical Therapy: medicines applied to the entire general area that attack the virus following penetration into the skin or lesion.
- Cryotherapy: application of liquid nitrogen to freeze and destroy the lesion
- Cauterization: application of an electrical heat current to destroy the lesion
- Excisional Biopsy: surgically removing a specimen (done for large lesions or for those where we are not completely certain that the lesion represents condyloma)