



5-fluorouracil For Warts

The agent 5-fluorouracil is chemotherapeutic and is FDA-approved for actinic keratoses and basal cell carcinomas, however, it has been reported in the medical literature to be beneficial in the treatment of warts.

While the exact mechanism is unknown, this agent does inhibit DNA synthesis. By inhibiting DNA synthesis with 5-fluorouracil, we eradicate the wart because the wart is a DNA virus.

In order to maintain a high concentration of the 5-fluorouracil for the wart, apply it twice a day. First, gently remove the dead tissue with a curette at home. If pinpoint bleeding occurs with debridement, you must hold pressure to stop bleeding before applying 5-fluorouracil. Rub in a small amount of 5-fluorouracil with a q-tip then apply a small dollop under waterproof tape (duct tape). For thick warts the doctor may have you use salicylic acid under tape in the morning and the 5-fluorouracil in the evening. The choice of tape is open as long as it has strong adhesive properties and is waterproof.

Many patients will have extensive maceration of the warts within two weeks. As the weeks go by and with diligent treatment at home, the wart will actually begin to ulcerate. This is normal as the wart is simply destroyed at a faster rate than it can be replaced with healthy skin. These ulcerations are superficial, minimally painful and are harbingers of complete destruction of the wart. When you can see skin lines running right to the edge of the ulcer, continue the treatment for one to two more weeks. At the end of this period, discontinue the 5-fluorouracil and allow the lesion to heal. The typical treatment course for the treatment of warts is from eight to twelve weeks.

<http://www.podiatrytoday.com/article/2598>