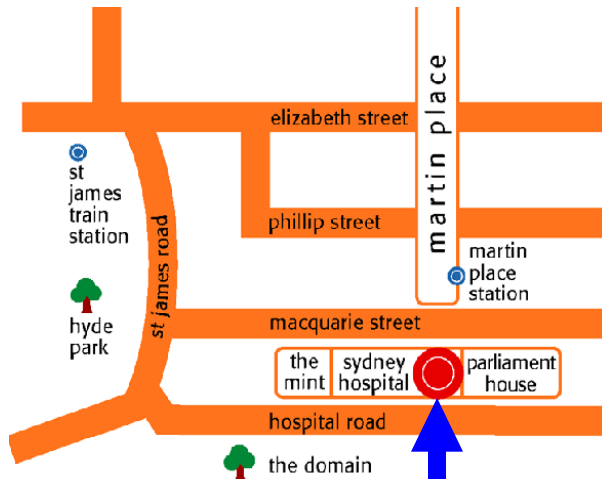


Sydney Sexual Health Centre



The Sydney Sexual Health Centre provides a free, confidential and comprehensive service that helps put you in control of your sexual health. The service supports your sexual health by providing screening, vaccination and management of sexually transmissible infections including HIV and hepatitis B, women's and men's sexual health care, education, individual and couple counselling, and needle and syringe exchange. The service offers a choice of male and female doctors, nurses and counsellors who are respectful of your lifestyle and sexuality.

NO MEDICARE CARD REQUIRED

Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm

Wednesday 2pm to 6pm

Telephone: (02) 9382 7440

Sexual Health Infoline: 1800 451624

Monday - Friday 9am to 5: 30pm

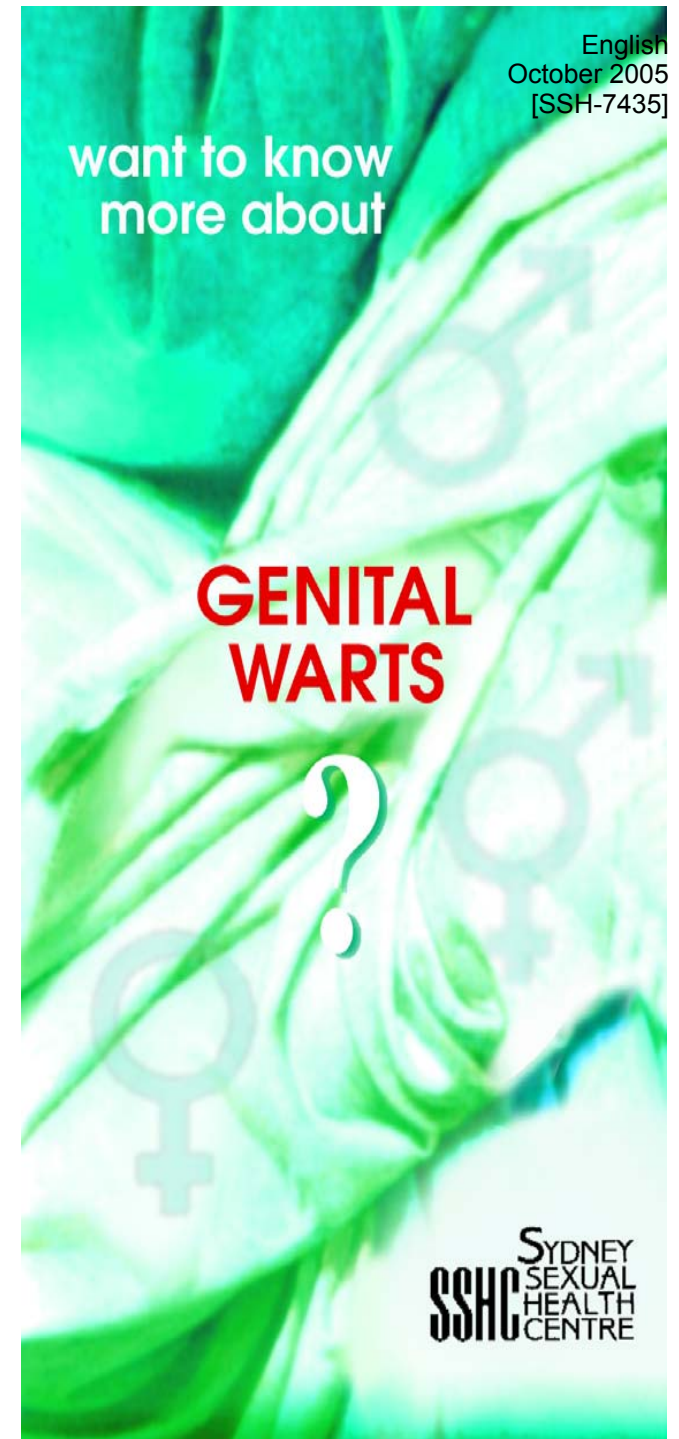
Internet:

www.sesahs.nsw.gov.au/sydhosp/SSHC.asp

NSW/ACT Sexual Health Services

Free & confidential sexual health care

Albury	Ph: (02) 6058 1840
Armidale	Ph: (02) 6776 4738
Bourke	Ph: (02) 6872 2145
Broken Hill	Ph: (08) 8080 1556
Canberra	Ph: (02) 6244 2184
Coffs Harbour	Ph: (02) 6656 7865
Dareton	Ph: (03) 5021 7200
Dubbo	Ph: (02) 6885 1700
Forster	Ph: (02) 6555 6822
Gosford	Ph: (02) 4320 2114
Goulburn	Ph: (02) 4827 3913
Griffith	Ph: (02) 6966 9900
Katoomba	Ph: (02) 4784 6560
Kings Cross	Ph: (02) 9360 2766
Kogarah	Ph: (02) 9350 2742
Lightning Ridge	Ph: (02) 6829 1022
Lismore	Ph: (02) 6620 2980
Liverpool	Ph: (02) 9827 8022
Manly	Ph: (02) 9977 3288
Marrickville	Ph: (02) 9560 3057
Mt Druitt	Ph: (02) 9881 1733
Newcastle	Ph: (02) 4923 6909
Nowra	Ph: (02) 4423 9353
Orange	Ph: (02) 6392 8600
Parramatta	Ph: (02) 9843 3124
Penrith	Ph: (02) 4734 2507
Port Kembla	Ph: (02) 4276 2399
Queanbeyan	Ph: (02) 6298 9233
Richmond	Ph: (02) 4578 1622
St Leonards	Ph: (02) 9926 7414
Sydney City	Ph: (02) 9382 7440
Tamworth	Ph: (02) 6766 3095
Taree	Ph: (02) 6592 9421
Wagga Wagga	Ph: (02) 6938 6492



What is genital wart virus infection?

Genital warts are caused by a wart virus. There are over 70 different types of wart virus affecting various parts of the body.

Wart virus is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections and many people carry the virus without knowing it.

It is estimated that most of the sexually active population will acquire the wart virus, but only a small number of infected people develop warts.

How do I know if I have genital wart virus infection?

Wart virus infection may present in the following ways:

- *Visible* warts which can be found anywhere on the genital or anal area.
- *Subclinical infection* - no warts are visible but microscopic changes show that the virus is present (usually on a Pap smear or biopsy).
- *Latent infection* - virus can only be seen using laboratory techniques reserved for research purposes.

How does someone get infected?

Genital warts are spread by direct contact with another person's skin in the area where the wart virus is. The virus is usually transmitted by sexual contact and may appear three weeks to 12 months after sexual contact with an infected person, or they may never appear. It is also thought

that the subclinical infection is spread this way, although this is not entirely clear.

People in a regular sexual relationship who haven't been using condoms may wish to discuss with their partner and/or health care worker, if it is necessary to start using condoms.

Do sexual partners need treatment?

It may be advisable for concerned sexual partners to see a doctor or nurse for a check-up if they have any unexplained lumps.

What is the treatment?

There is currently no cure or vaccination for wart virus, however, there are treatments available. Treatments can remove the warts or the infected cells but they will not necessarily get rid of the virus from the skin.

Warts can be treated by applying a genital wart paint or cream, freezing, diathermy (burning) or laser. Treatment can sometimes require several visits and recurrences can occur after any form of treatment. The doctor or nurse will discuss which treatment is most suitable for you.

Do genital warts cause cancer?

Some types of the genital wart virus have been linked with abnormal cell changes on the cervix, vulva, penis or anus. However, only a few of these viruses are strongly associated with cancer. This association seems to act together with other factors, one of which may be smoking. Visible warts

are less likely to lead to the cell changes that precede cancer. The types of wart virus that are linked to abnormal cell changes usually cause subclinical infections.

What else should I know?

- The virus can be anywhere in the genital or anal area; therefore condoms may not completely stop transmission of the virus during sexual contact. Condoms however, will help prevent the spread.
- Regular sexual partners may be advised to have a check-up to see if they have warts. If you are unsure about how to discuss this with your sexual partner, you should speak to a counsellor, nurse or doctor at a sexual health clinic or your local doctor.
- If you are having treatment for visible warts, you should keep the area clean and dry by bathing in salty water and drying the area thoroughly - once a day should be enough.
- Minimise or stop smoking.
- Women should make sure they have regular Pap smears. The doctor or nurse will discuss when the next Pap smear should be taken.
- Use a condom with new or casual sexual partners.