Human Papilloma Virus (Hpv) Encyclopedia Article

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Human Papilloma Virus (Hpv)

Genital human papilloma virus (HPV) is a sexually transmitted disease (STD), the most common symptom of which is genital warts.

Of the more than 60 types of human papilloma virus (HPV), 20 are associated with genital infections. Five of these are associated with cervical cancer.

In addition to visible growths or warts in the genital area, HPV often causes microscopic lesions on the vagina, cervix, penis, or rectum. Because HPV is often detected by routine Pap smear, sexually active adolescent girls should have annual Pap tests.

Treatment for HPV varies depending on the site of the infection. Genital warts can be treated by topical medications in a doctor's office or clinic. If this treatment is not successful, a wart might be removed by freezing or laser.

For Further Study

Books

Daugirdas, John T., M.D. *STD, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Including HIV/AIDS.* Hinsdale, IL: Medtext, 1992.

Organizations

National Sexually Transmitted Disease Hotline

Telephone: toll-free (800) 227-8922
(Free information and clinic referrals)