



DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATES OF INDY

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Treatment of Warts or Molluscum Contagiosum with Cantharone Plus and At Home Care

Cantharone plus is a liquid containing three active ingredients: salicylic acid, podophyllin, and cantharidin. Its common name is "beetle juice". It is used to treat common warts, plantar warts, and molluscum contagiosum. Risks involve pain and itching within a day of application. A blister will form in the area of application. It does typically require more than one application. Occasionally it causes a ring of small warts to form in the area around the first wart. These can be treated with the same techniques as the initial wart.

Application of Cantharone by one of our providers is not painful. After application and drying of the liquid, an adhesive bandage will be applied. Remove the bandage in 5-6 hours. Do not bathe or soak area in water for 5-6 hours or until the bandage is removed.

If the area becomes itchy, take an oral antihistamine per package directions. If the areas hurts, use acetaminophen or ibuprofen according to package directions.

Treatment Progression:

- 4 hours: Mild discomfort may occur.
- Remove bandage 5-6 hours after application. Wash with soap and water. Protect the area with a new adhesive bandage if desired.
- 24 hours: Blistering of the area
- 4-7 days: Crusted blisters fall off leaving superficial erosions. These may itch.
- 7-14 days: Healed with temporary residual inflammation/redness. Temporary loss of normal pigmentation often occurs but will leave no residual scar.

Please make an appointment for follow up (812-401-9030) for any of the following:

- Signs of infection (red streaks, pus draining, swelling, fever)
- As directed for re-evaluation and treatment if indicated.

IT IS RARE, but anyone can have a severe allergic reaction to any medication. Call 911 if you notice swelling of the face, or trouble breathing after treatment with topical Cantharone.