

Anal Warts

What Are Anal Warts?

Anal warts are small growths that develop around the anus and genital area. They can affect the skin both on the outside and inside of the anus. If left untreated, they can grow larger and multiply over time.

What Causes Anal Warts?

Most anal warts are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), which spreads through skin-to-skin contact. Because of this, anal warts are often regarded as a sexually transmitted infection (STI), but you do not necessarily need to have had anal intercourse to develop them.

Some people are at a higher risk of developing anal warts, particularly those with a weakened immune system. This includes:

- People taking immune-suppressing medications, such as transplant patients
- Individuals with HIV or other conditions that affect immune function

Symptoms Of Anal Warts

Many people are unaware they have anal warts, as they can be small and painless. However, common symptoms include:

- Small raised lumps or skin tags around the anus
- Itching or irritation in the anal area
- Pain or discomfort, especially if the warts are extensive

If you experience any of these symptoms, it is important to seek medical advice for an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

How Are Anal Warts Diagnosed?

When you visit the clinic, your consultant will:

- Take a full medical history and discuss your symptoms
- Perform a clinical examination of the affected area
- Use a rigid sigmoidoscope or proctoscope to check for internal warts, if necessary

How Are Anal Warts Treated?

If left untreated, anal warts can continue to grow and, in rare cases, increase the risk of anal cancer. Treatment depends on the size and number of warts.

Non-surgical treatments (for small or few warts)

- **Topical medications** – applied directly to the warts to shrink them over time
- **Liquid nitrogen (cryotherapy)** – used to freeze and remove warts

Surgical removal (for larger or internal warts)

- Performed under a short anaesthetic
- Warts removed using a combination of cutting and electro-cautery
- Typically carried out as a day-case procedure

Recovery After Anal Wart Removal

Recovery time depends on the extent of the procedure. Some patients experience mild discomfort and can return to work quickly, while others may require a longer recovery period.

For detailed post-surgery care advice, refer to our aftercare guide for anal surgery.

Follow-Up & Prevention

- Some patients may need more than one procedure to fully remove the warts
- Regular follow-up appointments are recommended to monitor recovery and check for regrowth

Why Choose The The Midlands Bowel Clinic?

At the **Midlands Bowel Clinic**, we provide expert care for anal and colorectal conditions with:

- **Expert consultants** in colorectal care
- **Fast access to treatment** with minimal waiting times
- **State-of-the-art facilities** in a comfortable setting
- **Personalised care** tailored to your needs

We provide high-quality, specialist care to help you achieve the best possible outcome.

Contact Us

If you are experiencing symptoms of anal warts or would like expert advice, get in touch today to discuss your treatment options.