

CANTHARIDIN WART THERAPY

Cantharidin is a substance that comes from the green blister beetle. It is sometimes used to treat warts if salicylic acid or freezing with liquid nitrogen (cryotherapy) has not been useful.

Cantharidin is a vesicant, which means it causes the skin to blister. It is applied to a wart, which is then covered by a bandage or tape. You should remove the Band-Aid and wash the area with soap and water after about 6 hours. Over the next 12-24 hours, it may cause the skin to blister. This lifts the wart off of the skin, so the wart will come off when the blister dries. Often, the skin does not blister and a small crust or scab may form.

Although Cantharidin does not hurt when applied, it may cause mild tingling, itching, or burning within a few hours. It is normal to see slight red or inflamed skin around the blister, and for the blister to be filled with blood. The treated area may be tender for a few days.

The area where Cantharidin was applied should be kept clean. To keep the blister moist and prevent scab formation, Vaseline should be applied 1-2 times a day and the area covered with a Band-Aid.

If the blister becomes very intense and sore, the blister fluid can be drained. This can be done by thoroughly cleaning the area with alcohol and carefully nicking the side of the blister with a sterilized needle. The blister roof should be left intact.

If you have any questions about any unusual reaction at or around the treated site, please feel free to contact our office. Remember to wash off the area after 6 hours.