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not the  
**disease**

## Quick Facts on Treatment for Genital Warts and Cancer

- Treatments remove the lesion, not the virus. At this moment there are no treatments directed at killing the virus. Vaccination is preventative, and it will not destroy any existing virus.
- Treatments of warts, pre-cancer and cancer destroy the affected tissue by using chemicals (podophyllotoxin, trichloroacetic acid), heat (laser), cold (cryotherapy), electricity (electrocautery, loop excision) or surgical ablation of the lesion. Anesthesia is not needed for cold and chemical treatments, but local and general anesthesia may be needed for laser and ablation.
- In the case of cancer, adjuvant therapy to destroy penetrative or deep lesions or distant metastasis
- A local treatment with an immune function booster named imiquimod may help develop an immune response to the virus in cases of external precancers and warts.
- After lesions disappear there is no guarantee that the person is not contagious to babies or sexual partners. Usually the more time between the lesion disappearance and the delivery of the baby or sexual intercourse with a new sexual partner, the less likely the transmission.
- HPV is considered a lifelong infection. When the lesion, wart, or pre-cancer disappears, it is thought that the virus is contained in the cells but can awaken if the immune response wanes.
- Even after years of successful treatment, a wart, a precancer, or a cancer may reappear because of a weakened immune response. This can occur in pregnancy (immune tolerance), in the treatment of cancers, after a graft or in the case of AIDS or HIV infection (immune deficiency), or when we get old (immunosenescence).

