

# Wart Stick or Medioplast

## What are warts?

Warts are a skin growth caused by human papilloma virus (HPV) that lives all over our environment. There are a variety of types of warts including flat warts (verruca plana), typical warts (verruca vulgaris), warts that happen on the palms or soles (verruca plantaris), and warts that happen in the mouth/throat and on the genital area (condyloma). Different strains of HPV cause different types of warts. There are hundreds of different types of human papilloma viruses. The strains of HPV that are associated with the sexually transmitted infection commonly known as genital warts do not usually cause flat warts, plain warts, or warts on the palms or soles. HPV is contagious, but whether or not someone develops a wart has more to do with whether or not they have an injury to the skin or how their immune system responds to the virus. Warts are like houses. What we see is just the surface, but the virus lives down deep in the skin, in the basement. The goal of treatment is to thin out the surface so that we can get down deep into the basement. These medications below help to keep warts thin so that treatments in the office are more effective.

## What are they?

Wart Stick and Medioplast are medications applied to the skin for the treatment of warts. Both contain 40% Salicylic Acid. Wart Stick looks like a glue stick or chapstick. Medioplast is a bandaid like patch that is saturated with the medication. As you use these medications, the acid will slowly and painlessly soak into the underlying skin and kill skin cells that hold the wart virus.

**Becca Joy, M.D.**

## Where do I buy it?

You can buy both over-the-counter without a prescription. [Mediplast](#) is more easily found at stores and there are often generic versions of it. [Wart Stick](#) is less expensive and can be purchased online at the Amazon links above. One tube of Wart Stick will last for months, while Medioplast is used up more quickly.

## How to use Wart Stick

1. Scoop a small amount of the medication with a toothpick and apply directly to the wart once daily. Cover the area with a Band-aid or duct tape (whatever you can get to stick). After consistent application, the skin underneath will be very white and soft.
2. Once a week, soak the wart in warm water for 15 minutes. Then file the area of white, soft skin with a nail file or pumice stone. File the area until the white, dead skin is removed or until it is painful. Be sure to clean the file or stone with bleach after.

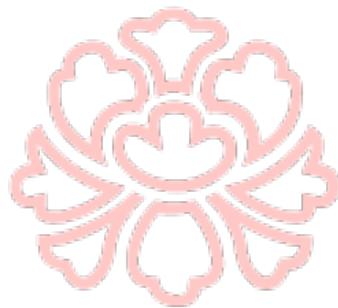
[www.beccajoymd.com](http://www.beccajoymd.com)

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3. Repeat daily application of Wart Stick and weekly filing until wart is gone.

#### How to use Medioplast

1. Remove the sheet from the wrapper. One side is “fuzzy” like moleskin and the other side is paper. Cut a piece just slightly bigger than your wart. Remove the paper backing. Place “sticky side” down on the skin.
2. Cover with a band-aid or duct tape. You can leave on for 1-3 days, depending on your shower schedule but should use the medication every day. When you remove the plaster, the skin underneath will be very white and soft.
3. Once a week, soak the wart in warm water for 15 minutes. Then file the area of white, soft skin with a nail file or pumice stone like described above.
4. Repeat daily application of Medioplast and weekly filing until wart is gone.



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