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**VERRUCA ACUMINATA**



## VERRUCA ACUMINATA

**Synonyms:** *Condyloma acuminatum*; Pointed condyloma; Venereal, moist or pointed wart.

*Verrucae acuminatae* are papillary outgrowths which occur in some localities and display peculiar characteristics that distinguish them from the common wart (*Verruca vulgaris*). Whether the difference is one of etiology or due merely to the macerating and stimulating effect on ordinary warts, of heat, friction, and the moisture of normal secretions or of pathological discharges, it is as yet impossible to say. *Verrucae acuminatae* are found usually upon the genitalia and anus in both sexes, also occasionally at the umbilicus, in the axillae, beneath the hanging breasts, between the toes and in the mouth. Their common localization upon the genitalia is due obviously to the more abundant moisture in that region and the frequent presence of venereal discharges, though the nature of the discharge, whether gonorrhoeal, leucorrhoeal, balanitic, syphilitic, etc., is immaterial. In men the glans penis, frenum and prepuce are the usual seats of these warts. The growths are contagious and autoinoculable. They consist of one or more, papillomatous or cauliflower-like, vascular vegetations, which vary in size from that of a

pin point to that of a lemon. They may be sessile or pedunculated, isolated or aggregate. The larger tumors are either raspberry-like elevations or else composed of a great number of closely clustered, irregularly shaped papilliform protuberances. They bleed readily and secrete a mucoid material which easily becomes purulent and rapidly decomposes, emitting an exceedingly offensive odor. The secretion sometimes dries to form crusts. The warts may cause some pruritus. They very rarely disappear spontaneously and in the aged may undergo malignant degeneration. **DIAGNOSIS:** A verrucous *syphilitic condyloma* may be almost indistinguishable from the similar form of *verruca acuminata*, but the former is so constantly associated with typical moist papules, mucous patches and other signs of syphilis, that examination of the secretion for the presence of *Spirochaeta pallida* is rarely necessary. **TREATMENT:** The purulent discharge should be cleared up first by repeatedly washing the parts with soap and water, and dusting them profusely with powdered calomel and boric acid. The warts may be then clipped or curetted off and the raw base cauterized with silver nitrate.