Detection of human papillomavirus DNA on the fingers of patients with genital warts

C Sonnex, S Strauss, J J Gray

Objective: To determine whether patients with genital warts carry human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA on their fingers.

Methods: 14 men and eight women with genital warts had cytobrush samples taken from genital lesions, finger tips, and tips of finger nails. Samples were examined for the presence of HPV DNA by the polymerase chain reaction.

Results: HPV DNA was detected in all female genital samples and in 13/14 male genital samples. HPV DNA was detected in the finger brush samples of three women and nine men. The same HPV type was identified in genital and hand samples in one woman and five men.

Conclusion: This study has identified hand carriage of genital HPV types in patients with genital warts. Although sexual intercourse is considered the usual mode of transmitting genital HPV infection, our findings raise the possibility of transmission by finger-genital contact.

Keywords: human papillomavirus; polymerase chain reaction; fingers; genital warts
null


Detection of human papillomavirus DNA on the fingers of patients with genital warts.

C Sonnex, S Strauss and J J Gray

Sex Transm Infect 1999 75: 317-319
doi: 10.1136/sti.75.5.317

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://sti.bmj.com/content/75/5/317

These include:

Email alerting service
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/