other bacterial parasites of the genital tract, make them promising candidates for treating gonorrhoea.

Yours faithfully,
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References


TO THE EDITOR, Genitourinary Medicine

Anal warts in heterosexual men

Sir,

Previous reports have suggested that many men who have anal warts practise anal receptive intercourse. We suggest that if men who have not engaged in that practice are examined, anal warts are more common than is supposed.

In a three month period in 1986 we studied 60 consecutive men with penile warts of less than one month’s apparent duration. A full sexual history, particularly of anal receptive intercourse, was taken. On clinical examination we noted not only penile warts, but also oral and anal ones. If anal warts were seen, proctoscopy was performed. Signs of other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) were noted. Appropriate microbiological, serological, and serological tests were made for concomitant STDs.

Of the 60 men with penile warts (mean age 23, range 17 to 20), one was homosexual and 24 (40%) had recently engaged in orogenital sexual practices. The table shows the parts of the penis where condylomata acuminata were found. Many men had warts at more than one site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parts of penis</th>
<th>No of patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepuce</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaft</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meatus</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corona</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crural fold</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Anal warts were found in 18 (30%) men, and in four the rectal canal (above the dentate line) was affected. Oral warts were found in three men. Concomitant STDs were found in 20 (33%) patients, the most common being non-gonococcal urethritis, which was found in 13 (22%).

This study confirms previous reports of the high incidence of STDs concomitantly with genital warts. It shows that when a man presents with penile warts, whatever his sexual orientation or history, his anus and mouth should be examined to exclude warts infection at these sites at the same time.

We conclude that anal warts do not necessarily point to homosexual experience. In a provincial centre anal warts are more common in heterosexual than homosexual men.

Yours faithfully,
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References

