

CADTH RAPID RESPONSE REPORT: REFERENCE LIST

Topical Cantharidin/ Salicylic Acid/ Podophyllin for the Treatment of Warts: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines

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Research Questions

1. What is the comparative clinical effectiveness of topical cantharidin/salicylic acid/podophyllin versus other topical treatments for warts?
2. What are the evidence-based guidelines for the topical treatment of warts?

Key Findings

One non-randomized study and two evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding topical cantharidin/ salicylic acid/ podophyllin for the treatment of warts.

Methods

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, the Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Embase, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2014 and January 11, 2019. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Population	Adults and children (all ages) with wart(s)
Intervention	Topical cantharidin/salicylic acid/podophyllin [the product name is Cantharone-plus]
Comparator	Q1: Any comparator Q2: No comparator
Outcomes	Q1: Clinical effectiveness, time to cure, safety Q2: Guidelines
Study Designs	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines

Results

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

One non-randomized study and two evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding topical cantharidin/ salicylic acid/ podophyllin for the treatment of warts. No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, or randomized controlled trials were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

1. Ghonemy S. Treatment of recalcitrant plantar warts with long-pulsed Nd:YAG laser versus cantharidin-podophylline resin-salicylic acid. *J Cosmet Laser Ther.* 2017 Oct;19(6):347-352.
[PubMed: PM28489473](#)

Guidelines and Recommendations

2. Clinical Effectiveness Group. UK National Guidelines on the management of anogenital warts. Macclesfield (GB); British Association for Sexual Health and HIV; 2015: <https://www.bashh.org/documents/UK%20national%20guideline%20on%20Warts%202015%20FINAL.pdf>. Accessed 2019 Jan 17.
3. Sterling JC, Gibbs S, Haque Hussain SS, Mohd Mustapa MF, Handfield-Jones SE. British Association of Dermatologists' guidelines for the management of cutaneous warts 2014. *Br J Dermatol.* 2014;171(4):696-712.

Appendix — Further Information

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses – No Comparator

4. Vakharia PP, Chopra R, Silverberg NB, Silverberg JI. Efficacy and Safety of Topical Cantharidin Treatment for Molluscum Contagiosum and Warts: A Systematic Review. *Am J Clin Dermatol*. 2018 01 Dec;19(6):791-803.

Review Articles

5. Cantharidin: a comprehensive review of the clinical literature. *Dermatol Online J*. 2014 Jun 15;20(6)
<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/2886/e7e249cdedd27430ee08578be94e8af2be1a.pdf>