

Warts

- ◆ **Warts are benign skin tumors caused by a viral infection. The wart virus is contagious and may be passed from person to person or spread to other areas on the skin.**
- ◆ **Most people will eventually develop an immunity to the wart virus. That is, their bodies will get rid of existing warts and resist new infection by the virus. The length of time necessary to become immune is variable. In some patients, all warts will disappear in a matter of weeks. In others, it may take years. Warts on the feet, around the nails or on the genitals usually take the longest to disappear.**
- ◆ **Treatment of warts involves destroying all wart tissue or irritating it enough to stimulate the body's immune system. Our main therapies include liquid nitrogen (freezing), Canthrene or Verrusol (blistering agents). None of these are 100% effective and patients may require multiple treatments, often over a period of months. If warts are persistently resistant to treatment, surgery may be considered, although this may carry a risk of scar formation. Bear in mind that warts often disappear on their own; therefore, we try to employ treatments which cause the least amount of damage to your normal skin.**
- ◆ **Remember, warts are benign and will eventually disappear! Patience and persistence will pay off.**