

Irritant reactions: a friendly aid in treating warts in children.

Keywords Warts, irritant contact dermatitis.

Warts in children continue to be an annoying and challenging therapeutic issue for physicians and for parents, often a cause of anxiety, especially if the children are small. According to guidelines, there are many therapeutic options, based on different mechanism of action: tissue destructive, immune stimulating or immune modulating, va-

scular destructive, cryotherapy or simple classic surgery, irritant effect. The latter consists of applying different chemical agents, under occlusion, for 5-10 consecutive days; the effect is closely related to the age of the child, the location, number, dimension and stage of warts. Although the method could be appreciated as simple at the



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: Regression of plantar warts after 7 days of treatment with topical irritant (Fig. 1, 2, 3); sometime the irritant contact dermatitis (Fig. 4) before the regression (Fig. 5) is severe.

beginning of the treatment, several side effects can be reported, such as pruritus, pain, significant irritation, infection or even bleeding. The treatment should be stopped when skin irritation surrounds the wart. Sometimes emollients are necessary and reassurance of the patients. The aim of the present article is to illustrate, by images (Figg. 1-5), how “awful” cutaneous warts can be-

come during aggressive irritant topical treatment, but with final excellent good results. It could be difficult and frustrating for dermatologists to convince the family members that irritant contact dermatitis is the aim of the therapy and not a matter of concern. Skin irritation around warts is an expected therapeutic side effect that will, finally, contribute to eradicate the verruca.

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