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IMMUNOTHERAPY OF WARTS

Immunotherapy is a method of stimulating immunity to help overcome an infection. The concept is similar to receiving allergy shots to treat allergies. Two recent studies published in the Archives of Dermatology have supported this method of treatment for warts.

There are two stages to immunotherapy. The initial stage involves determining your level of reactivity to two known allergens, mumps and candida. A skin test is performed by injecting a small amount of these allergens into the skin of the forearm, similar to that which is performed when doing a skin test for tuberculosis. The result may be the development of a red itchy bump on the test site which is maximum approximately 48-hours after the test and which usually resolves within one week. More severe local reactions may include blistering and much less commonly, ulceration. Rarely, immediate systemic reactions may occur including sneezing, coughing, itching, shortness of breath, abdominal cramps, vomiting, diarrhea, increased heart rate, and low blood pressure. For this reason, you will be asked to remain in the office for 30 minutes after your test and/or treatment. Individuals allergic to feathers, eggs, or thimerosal should **not** receive mumps antigen.

The second stage of immunotherapy includes the actual treatment of the warts. Once we have determined the allergen which produces the greater localized skin reaction, a small amount of that material is injected into one or multiple warts. Local reactions at the injection site may include pain, itching, burning, redness, swelling, and blisters. Additionally, immediate systemic reactions that may occur during the testing stage are possible during the treatment stage as well. Warts may be treated at 2-4 week intervals depending upon the response. In some individuals, even warts which were not treated have resolved. Overall, there has been about a 75% response rate to immunotherapy. This compares favorably to other methods of treatment including: topical acids, cryotherapy, and laser surgery.

It should be clearly understood that although well-documented reports have appeared in the medical literature to support the efficacy and safety of immunotherapy for the treatment of warts, the use of candida and mumps antigen for the treatment of warts is **not** approved by the Food and Drug Administration. It is therefore considered "off-label" use which is the case for many drugs used in medicine.

CONSENT FOR TREATMENT:

I have read and understand the above information regarding the use of immunotherapy for the treatment of warts. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and they have been answered to my satisfaction. I give permission for treatment of my warts with immunotherapy.

Signature

(Guardian, if applicable)

Name

Date

Witness