

## Information for parents / carers of a child requiring

# CANTHARIDIN TREATMENT



Cantharidin (Cantharone®) is a substance naturally derived from the blister beetle. It is used to treat molluscum, warts and verrucae, and has been used since the Ancient Egyptians. Cantharidin is used topically, and only applied in the Dermatology Department.

### There are two strengths of cantharone

- Cantharone®
- Cantharone® Plus

The dermatology team will choose the one appropriate for your Treatment.

### Treatment of Molluscum

- Cantharone® is applied to all lesions. Paring of molluscum not required.
- Allow to dry before leaving the department.
- **At home, wash off with soap and water after 4 hours.**
- Molluscum will change in appearance. They may become raised and red, blisters may form. This usually takes place over the next few weeks. The team will decide if further appointments are required.

### Treatment of stubborn small warts / large warts or verrucae

- Warts or verrucae are usually pared prior to treatment. Cantharone®/Cantharone Plus® is then applied.
- The liquid is allowed to dry and then covered with nonporous tape for **4-6 hours**.
- The tape should then be removed and the area washed with soap and water.
- Remove sooner if the child complains of burning or discomfort.
- If the tape is difficult to remove, soak in warm soapy water.
- Parents should wash their own hands after removal of solution.
- If there is pain, administer pain relief and/or soak the area in cold water for 10 minutes.
- A blister may form 24 -48 hours after treatment, which often causes pain or discomfort. If a blister is large, you can drain with a sterile needle and keep clean with a Band-Aid.



Figure 1. Blistering of warts following treatment



Figure 2. Blistering of a verruca

- After 4 days crusted blisters fall off leaving superficial erosions.
- After 7 days blister heals with slight redness around the area.
- If you see signs of infection such as, redness, swelling or redness beyond the immediate area of the wart, contact the dermatology team or GP if out of hours.
- Occasionally bleeding into the blister can occur giving it a black colour.
- In a small number of patients, a ring of small satellite warts surrounding an original wart may appear after Cantherone ® treatment.

### Follow-up

Return in two weeks for review. Resistant warts or new molluscum lesions may require repeat treatments. If some warts persist after six treatments, a further review by the Dermatology team will be required.

If you require assistance, please contact the Dermatology department on

Phone Numbers: **01 428 2541 / 428 2532 / 428 2646**

Dermatology Clinical Nurse Specialist Phone: **01 409 6100 - Bleep 8322 / 8496**

Additional information

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