

Ano-genital warts in prepubertal children: Referral and Management Guidelines

Department / Service:	Trustwide	
Originator:	Mountain Healthcare –	
_	Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Provider	
	Prakash Kalambettu – Named Doctor Children's Safeguarding	
Accountable Director:	Sarah Shingler, Chief Nursing Officer	
Approved by:	Integrated Safeguarding Committee	
Date of approval:	28 th January 2025	
First Revision Due:	24 th January 2028	
Target Organisation(s)	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	
Target Departments:	Trustwide	
Target staff	All staff groups working with prepubertal children	
categories:		

Guideline Overview:

Ano-genital warts in children can be a potential indicator of child sexual abuse.

Ano-genital warts in children can have serious medical, social, and legal implications.

Early detection and treatment leads to better outcomes for the victims.

This guideline should be used in conjunction with the Safeguarding Children Policy and BASHH National Guideline on the Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Related Conditions in Children and Young People (2021)

Latest Amendments to this guideline:

New referral and management guideline March 2021

24.01.2025 Version 2- References updated to reflect latest versions of documents. No other amendments required.

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A significant proportion of children [31-58%] with ano-genital warts have been sexually abused. Ano-genital warts seen by a clinician. No overt concerns of sexual abuse Any disclosure from child or concern from parent or professional of sexual abuse Referral to general Paediatrician for assessment IN ALL CASES background checks with social care and school nurse/health visitor to be made Referral to SARC via Police and Social Care referral No concerns raised of sexual abuse Concerns raised of sexual abuse History of examination by Paediatrician. Diagnosis of warts confirmed History to include points 1-4: Yes 1. Changes in behaviour of child which lead to increased concern of sexual abuse Age of 4 years or over 2. Age at which warts first appeared Age under 4 years discuss with SARC 3. Any carers or other children in house with warts on hands 4. Mode of delivery Yes – refer symptomatic warts for over 13 years to GUM and **Examination:** for under 13 yrs to Warts are confirmed and no other findings STI screen is performed*(if examination **Paediatrician** demonstrates any possible signs of CSA refer to SARC via Police and Social Care referral) No - watchful waiting and reassurance is all that is 5. Are the warts causing symptoms? required. Most will e.g. discomfort or bleeding resolve/drop off in time



SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

- *STI screen includes tests as appropriate¹
- Four routes of transmission for anogenital warts have been proposed in children; there is evidence for the first two – sexual and vertical and case reports of auto inoculation and hetero- inoculation²
- It is important to remember that CSA must be considered in all cases, although in many the route of transmission may ultimately be unclear.

References:

- BASHH National Guideline on the Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Related Conditions in Children and Young People (2021) http://www.bashh.org/guidelines/
- 2. Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health publication: The Physical Signs of Child Sexual Abuse (2nd Edition) 2015



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