Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of salicylic acid and cryotherapy for cutaneous warts.

An economic decision model


Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors' objectives
The aim of this review was to estimate the costs of commonly used treatments for cutaneous warts, as well as their health benefits and risk. To create an economic decision model to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of these treatments, and, as a result, assess whether a randomised controlled trial (RCT) would be feasible and cost-effective.

Authors' conclusions
Cryotherapy delivered by a doctor is an expensive option for the treatment of warts in primary care. Alternative options such as GP-prescribed SA and nurse-led cryotherapy clinics provide more cost-effective alternatives, but are still expensive compared with self-treatment. Given the minor nature of most cutaneous warts, coupled with the fact that the majority spontaneously resolve in time, it may be concluded that a shift towards self-treatment is warranted. Although both duct tape and OTC cryotherapy appear promising new self-treatment options from both a cost and an effectiveness perspective, more research is required to confirm the efficacy of these two methods of wart treatment. If these treatments are shown to be as cost-effective as or more cost-effective than conventional treatments, then a shift in service delivery away from primary care towards more OTC treatment is likely. A public awareness campaign would be useful to educate patients about the self-limiting nature of warts and the possible alternative OTC treatment options available. Two future RCTs are recommended for consideration: a trial of SA compared with nurse-led cryotherapy in primary care, and a trial of home treatments. Greater understanding of the efficacy of these home treatments will give doctors a wider choice of treatment options, and may help to reduce the overall demand for cryotherapy in primary care.

Project page URL
http://www.hta.ac.uk/1348

Link to NHS EED abstract
http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/ShowRecord.asp?ID=22006008371

INAHTA brief and checklist

Indexing Status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

MeSH
Costs and Cost Analysis; Cryotherapy /methods; Salicylic Acid /therapeutic use; Warts /therapy

Language Published
English

**Country of organisation**
England

**Address for correspondence**
NETSCC, Health Technology Assessment, Alpha House, University of Southampton Science Park, Southampton, SO16 7NS UK Tel: +44 23 8059 5586 Email: hta@hta.ac.uk

**AccessionNumber**
32006000847

**Date bibliographic record published**
03/08/2006

**Date abstract record published**
03/08/2006