Study of 100 cases of female patients suffering from anogenital warts and the rate of involvement in their husbands

Dear Editor

Warts are among the most widespread clinical manifestations of human papilloma virus observed at the epithelial level of mucus or skin. Warts spread through direct or indirect contact and are self inoculative.1,2

Anogenital wart is considered as a relatively common illness which has become more prevalent in recent decades and is mostly seen in sexually-active persons.2,3

In the present study, we investigated the frequency of anogenital wart existence in patients' husbands and looked for the possibility of contagion.

In this one-year study carried out in skin and venereal diseases clinic, 100 female patients mostly with condyloma acuminatum were studied. Moreover, their spouses were examined by an experienced dermatologist and the reported results were analyzed using periodic descriptive method and finally the following findings were noticed:

Among 100 infected women suffering from anogenital wart (mean age: 28.5 years), an obvious clinical symptom like 3 to 7 small skin-colored papules were seen in 42 spouses; however, the rest of them did not have any findings. Nevertheless, in bimonthly follow-up visits for achieving complete treatment, after 4 months from the first visit, a clinical finding was observed in 27 males.

In this study, 100 sexually active women (mean age: 28.5 years) infected by anogenital wart were investigated. It is an indicator of virus transmission through sexual contact, which is considered as the main way of disease transmission. In 42 cases, similar lesions were simultaneously observed in the patients' sexual partner. Next, in bimonthly post treatment follow-ups, about 4 months after the first visit, examination of their husbands showed 27 new males cases with clinical symptoms which indicate that because of a long incubation period, symptoms may not manifest simultaneously in both partners and that females' sooner manifestation of wart symptoms, as stated by other sources,1-4 may stem from their specific anatomical situation and trauma as well. Meanwhile, in examining these patients and their spouses, may be noticed three more points.

1. In some patients, as it is mentioned in other studies,2-4 possibility of a sexual transmission should be assumed. This transmission may derive from warts on other body parts of the patients or by other non genital warts of her partner or other persons in her connection.2-4

2. Possibility of clinical lesion existence in men is far less than women. This fact, which is also mentioned in other studies, might be due to the thinner mucous tissue, which results in more transfer and outbreak of clinical lesions among women.2

3. The third issue to consider is that in spite of preceding studies2,3, possibility of infection spread in anogenital warts is lower than the expected level.

However, on the basis of accomplished investigations, we may come to the conclusion that sexual wart is a contagious venereal disease the occurrence of which might not be simultaneous in men and women. Nevertheless, as a rule of thumb, the partner or partners of every infected person should be examined on a regular and monthly basis. This examination is very important since apart from virus contagion issues and appearance of clinical symptoms after a few months, this virus might contribute to malignancies of the genital areas and in long term, men may contract penis squamous cell carcinoma and women may suffer from cervix squamous cell carcinoma as well. (Iran J Dermatol 2008;11:95-96)

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References


