Successful Treatment of a Large Exophytic Genital Wart with Imiquimod in a 9 month Infant.

Yusuf SM, * FWACP; Yahaya A,** MWACP;

*Dermatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital Kano.
*Department of Paediatrics, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital Kano

Abstract

About 2-20% of all children have warts on their skin.[1] The prevalence of anogenital warts in childhood is 1.5%, and they are twice as common in girls compared to boys.[2] Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the aetiologic agent of anogenital warts. HPV types 6 and 11 account for more than 56% of genital warts, however, HPV 1 to 4, 16, or 18 associated with cutaneous warts are frequently detected in anogenital wart in children. [3,4] Genital warts are uncommon in children and, their occurrence in infants should raise the concern of possible vertical transmission from the mother, sexual abuse or transmission non-sexually from direct contact with caretaker contaminated with genital HPV

Treatment of anogenital warts can be a major challenge in infants especially when such warts are large. Most treatment modalities are either painful or require general anesthesia.[5] Imiquimod, an immune modifier, has been used successfully used as off-label in the treatment of perianal warts in children. We report an impressive response to topical Imiquimod on a large condylomata acuminata in a 9 month old baby.



Huge cauliflower tumour covering the introitus before and after using Imiquimod

References

1. Williams HC, Pottier A, Strachan D. The descriptive epidemiology of warts in British schoolchildren. *Br J Dermatol* 1993; **128**: 504–11.

2. Bülbül S, Demirceken F, Cakir B, et al. Difficulties in diagnosing sexual abuse in children with condyloma acuminata in Turkey. J Child Sex Abus 2010;19:35-42.

3. Sinclair KA, Woods CR, Kirse DJ, Sinal SH. Anogenital and respiratory tract human papillomavirus infections among children: age, gender, and potential transmission through sexual abuse. Pediatrics 2005; 116:815.

4. Allen AL, Siegfried EC. The natural history of condyloma in children. J Am Acad Dermatol 1998; 39:951

5. Workowski KA, Berman S, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sexually transmitted diseases treatment guidelines, 2010. MMWR Recomm Rep. 2010;59(RR-12):1–110



Dr Shehu Yusuf is a professor of Medicine with Bayero University Kano and a Consultant dermatologist with Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital Kano. He is also a visiting consultant dermatologist to two other tertiary medical centres in Nigeria. He was the author of two dermatology Books (African Dermatology and A synopsis of skin manifestations of HIV/AIDS in Blacks). Tropical dermatology is his main area of interest and research.