

Invitation

The project on "treating verrucae"

Hello

My name is (name of researcher) and I work at the University of York looking at different ways of removing verrucae. This leaflet is to invite you to take part in a project which is looking at two common ways of treating verrucae. At the moment I am not sure which is the best way, but doing this project should help me find out.

Why am I writing to you?

I am inviting everyone with a verruca who is going to the clinic to see if they would like to take part in this project. We hope 266 people will take part.

How did you get my name and address?

If you get a leaflet from me it is because the person caring for you has given me permission to contact you.

What is the point of the project?

The information from the project can help in three ways:

It will tell me which of these two ways is best at curing a verruca.

It will give me an idea if one treatment costs more than the other.

It will tell me what you thought about the treatment you had.

What will I have to do?

If you want to take part, you simply fill in the questionnaire and consent form and give it to the person who is treating your verruca. They will arrange for you to come to the clinic and at the end of 12 weeks will look to see if your verruca has gone. We will take a photograph of your verruca at the start of the study and then regularly to see if your verruca is reducing in size.

I will send you four more questionnaires to fill in to find out how you felt about the treatment you had, how many times you had to go to the clinic and about how you got there. If you like you can choose to fill these questionnaires in on-line.

What are the treatments being used in this study?

There are lots of different ways of treating verruca, but in this study we are using two different treatments, a freezing method and an ointment.

If your verruca is frozen, then your podiatrist/GP/nurse/ other HCP will apply a very cold liquid called nitrogen, to your verruca until it is frozen. Depending on its size this may take up to 30 seconds to freeze. You may be asked to come back to the clinic for a maximum of four treatments. But there will be a two/ three week gap in between each treatment.

The other treatment we are testing is an ointment. There are several different ointments available but in this study we are using one called Verrugon. Your podiatrist/GP/nurse/ other HCP will tell you and the person caring for you how to apply it safely and give you some to take home with you. You may be asked to apply it every day for a maximum of eight weeks. We will ask you to come back to the clinic two weeks after you started in the study to make sure you are not having any problems and to give you some more ointment if you need it.

We will ask everyone to come back to the clinic 12 weeks after they began the study to see if their verruca has gone and to take a photograph of it.

What treatment will I get?

Which treatment you get is a matter of chance. It is like tossing a coin to decide which of the treatments you will get. This makes it a fair test.

What happens to the information?

All the information you send back to me is put into a computer where we will be able to see which is the best way to remove verrucae.

Will anyone else be told what I say?

No, everything in the questionnaire is confidential. Your name will not be used in any articles we write about this project.

Do I have to take part in the project?

No, you do not have to take part in the project. If you decide not to take part, I will accept your decision and I will not ask you to give a reason.

What happens next?

If you decide you would like to take part in this project, please fill in the forms with this letter and take it with you and give it to the person who is treating your verruca.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Name of researcher

If you want to contact me to talk about the project, telephone (insert telephone number) between 9:30am and 2:00pm Monday to Friday. If I am not there please leave a message on the answer phone.