

What is acid therapy?

Salicylic acid is used to treat various skin conditions, including warts on the body and verrucae on the feet (both caused by versions of the human papilloma virus).

The treatment causes a skin irritation or a surface wound, through the application of an acid which dehydrates and damages the surface of the skin. The acid can be of various strengths, from 5 - 10% (Bazuka) to 50% (Verrugon). The treatment aims to trigger a response from your immune system, to the treated wart and all other warts or verrucae which you may have.

It is rare for application of salicylic acid to the skin to cause any pain or discomfort. However, if an extreme itching, reddening, allergy reaction does occur, the acid can be washed away with water. You should also wash your hands after applying the acid, so as to prevent its accidental rubbing into your eyes (very painful).

Care must be taken to avoid damaging the good skin which surrounds the wart or verruca, since this is where the replacement skin originates from. You only need to apply sufficient acid to cover the surface of the skin, particularly underneath feet where pressure causes any excess acid to spread onto surrounding areas.

How do I apply Verrugon?

Verrugon is suitable for application at home by adults, and can be used with children under adult supervision. Please read the details on the Verrugon box.

1. Prior to treatment, any rough skin covering the verruca which is proud of the surrounding skin should be removed. Use the small personal emery board supplied with the Verrugon kit, or additional ones from your local pharmacist, to file down the surface of the verruca. However, be careful not to graze surrounding skin with the file, as this could spread the verruca.

2. As instructed by your clinician, place the hole of the felt pad above the selected, treatable verruca. It is unusual to treat verrucae which are close to joints or the nails. In the case of a large or mosaic wart, centre the hole over an identifiable edge where the active virus is closer to the surface.
3. It is not necessary, nor is it desirable to cover a large area of skin with salicylic acid. You should apply acid to the verrucous skin at the bottom of the hole in the felt pad – only sufficient to cover the skin. The felt is intended to protect the surrounding good skin. However, if you fill the hole with acid, the whole pad becomes an acid reservoir and too much skin damage may be caused.
4. Cover the felt pad and acid treatment with one of the waterproof sticking plasters provided with the Verrugon kit. The dressing enhances the penetrative effect of the acid and helps to keep it in place.
5. Now wash your hands.

The Verrugon kit provides enough felt and plasters to treat your verruca for nine successive days. You should treat the same wart and location, day after day. Be careful not to damage the surrounding skin.

What can I expect afterwards?

Some reddening of the skin may result from repeated use of the salicylic acid treatment. If it becomes tender, sore or inflamed, wash away the acid with plain water and rest the area from further treatment until the situation has resolved.

Your clinician will arrange a review appointment with you to check the area and your progress. It is important you attend this appointment. Additional felt rings and waterproof plasters may be provided at this time.

In the unlikely event that you experience excessive pain or a weeping discharge at the treatment site, or you have any concerns about the treated area, please contact the clinic for advice.

In the first instance please contact:

Tel: *****

If unavailable please contact the podiatry clinic on:

Tel: *****

where reception staff will be able to put you in contact with another clinician for advice.

(Insert web site address)