

# Podophyllum Ointment

Podophyllum ointment contains two active ingredients, **salicylic acid** and **podophyllum resin**. Salicylic acid is a type of medicine called a keratolytic. It works by breaking down keratin, which is a protein that forms part of the skin structure. This results in softening and shedding of skin cells in the area it is applied to.

In the treatment of warts the effect of salicylic acid is to remove the affected skin over a period of time. In addition, by breaking up the outer surface of the wart, the salicylic acid allows the podophyllum to work.

Podophyllum resin is obtained from the roots of the podophyllum plant. When it penetrates the wart tissue, it has a direct toxic effect on the nuclei of wart cells. The nucleus is the cell's control centre and once it is destroyed the cell dies. Over time, the wart cells are destroyed and new healthy tissue grows in their place.

## How do I use it?

Place a corn ring around the wart, cutting the ring to fit if necessary. Then apply a minimal amount of ointment to the exposed wart in the middle of the corn ring. Take care to avoid getting the ointment on the surrounding healthy skin. Cover the wart and corn ring with a plaster and then wash your hands. This should be repeated daily until the wart appears soft and spongy. You should then leave the wart exposed and let it drop off naturally.

If the wart remains, this procedure should be repeated.

## Warning!

Avoid getting the ointment on normal healthy skin as it can burn it. Wash it off or wipe it off with a tissue straight away if you get the ointment on healthy skin.

Don't apply the ointment to broken or inflamed skin.

Don't over-apply the medicine as this will irritate the skin.

Stop using this medicine if the skin becomes red, inflamed or irritated.

This medicine is not suitable for use on sensitive areas of skin such as the face, armpits or anogenital areas.

## Not to be used in

- Warts that are bleeding or crumbling.
- Warts on the face, armpits or anogenital region.
- [Pregnancy](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [Diabetes mellitus](#)

People with numbness and weakness in the hands and feet caused by nerve problems (peripheral neuropathy).

People with poor blood circulation in the hands and feet (peripheral vascular insufficiency).

This medicine should not be used if you are allergic to one or any of its ingredients. Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you have previously experienced such an allergy. If you feel you have experienced an allergic reaction, stop using this medicine and inform your doctor or pharmacist immediately.

## Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Certain medicines should not be used during [pregnancy](#) or [breastfeeding](#). However, other medicines may be safely used in pregnancy or breastfeeding providing the benefits to the mother outweigh the risks to the

unborn baby. Always inform your doctor if you are pregnant or planning a pregnancy, before using any medicine.

This medicine should not be used during pregnancy as it may be absorbed through the skin and be harmful to the unborn baby. Seek medical advice from your doctor.

This medicine should not be used by breastfeeding mothers as it may be absorbed through the skin and be harmful to the nursing infant. Seek medical advice from your doctor.

## Side effects

Medicines and their possible side effects can affect individual people in different ways. The following are some of the side effects that are known to be associated with this medicine. Just because a side effect is stated here, it does not mean that all people using this medicine will experience that or any side effect.

- Irritation of the skin.
- Inflammation of the skin.
- Shedding of the outer layer of skin.
- The side effects listed above may not include all of the side effects.