Condyloma Accuminatum (HPV)

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Condyloma acuminata refers to anogenital warts caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). The most common strains of HPV that cause anogenital warts are 6 and 11. HPV is a double-stranded DNA virus primarily spread through sexual contact. Age, lifestyle, and sexual practices all play a role in one's susceptibility to developing condyloma acuminata (Pennycook,2019). Condyloma acuminata is a sexually transmitted disease (STD)that spreads widely in the age between 20-39. Condyloma acuminata is an HPV virus infection, and there are over 100 types of HPV virus have been identified.

Most HPV infections will be self-cured or by medication, but some HPV infections are difficult to cure, and cause certain types of cancers. The most common cancer that is caused by HPV virus is cervical cancer. According to the World Health Organization: “Cervical cancer is fourth most common cancer in women, and 570, 000 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer, and about 311, 000 died worldwide in 2018. HPV virus also causes cancers of the oropharynx (including the base of the tongue and tonsils)” (Torgovnik,2019). According to the CDC: There are 11,800 cases of oropharyngeal cancer in men and 2,200 in women each year in the United States (CDC, 2020).

Condyloma acuminata are usually asymptomatic, although they may occasionally cause bleeding, pruritus, and pain. Patients will generally be concerned about the appearance of the lesions, as they often cause psychological and psychosexual distress. Condyloma acuminata may also be found incidentally during routine female gynecological examinations (Pennycook,2019). Condyloma acuminata’s symptoms appear usually in the anogenital, but also present symptoms in the oral cavity. Condylomata acuminata have a cauliflower-like appearance that is usually found in the moist surfaces such as vagina, vaginal introitus and penis. It appears as red smooth popular warts; it also appears as skin color raised thickened bumpy warts. The oral appearance of condylomata acuminata is most found in the tongue, and also in the palate, buccal mucous, gums, lips and tonsils. Especious in the oropharynx (including the base of the tongue and tonsils) is the common cancer that is caused by HPV virus found in the men.

Condyloma Acuminata is usually diagnosed clinically with symptoms and sexual history. Histopathology of condyloma Acuminata will display acanthosis with overlying hyperkeratosis; oral lesion evidenced an epithelium irregularly thickened by acanthosis and papillomatosis, with a concentration of parakeratosis and koilocytes (Reis,2009). Koilocytes are large keratinocytes with abundant cytoplasm and small pyknotic nuclei.

No treatment is needed if the condyloma Acuminata are not causing discomfort, it usually treats the symptoms such as itching, burning and pain. HPV virus sometimes comes and goes, and there is no treatment to cure the virus. Warts will spread when sex with another person, however, medication can treat symptoms and proven the spreading. Topical therapies including Imiquimod cream 5%, Podophyllotoxin 0.5% solution and 0.15% cream. Surgical excision and cryotherapy remove warts can be used for cosmetic purposes. Some patients with HPV virus infection will develop Cervical cancer and Oropharyngeal cancer. The HPV vaccine was developed to prevent cervical and other cancers of the reproductive system. CDC recommends HPV vaccine for age under 26 years old including men and women. In the recent years, the CDC revised the guideline for HPV vaccine, some adults aged 27 through 45 years may qualify for HPV vaccine. However, HPV vaccination provides less benefit for this age range, as more people have already been exposed to HPV. According to the World Health Organization: “Cervical cancer is one of the most successfully treatable forms of cancer, as long as it is detected early and managed effectively” (Torgovnik,2019). Even though, Cervical cancers diagnosed in late stages can also be controlled with appropriate treatment and palliative care.

Many years ago, in China, people were not familiar with condyloma acuminata infection. People were shamed when they got the infection, so they did not go see the doctor and hide disease from anybody but suffered the symptom of the disease. Some doctors take advantage of people's shame, and charge expensive fees for the treatment, among those doctors some of them even do not have a license. They used penicillin injection or intravenous to treat the condyloma acuminata, and the course of treatment was long and expensive. Many patients suffered the symptoms of the disease and the cost of the treatment.

I did my internship in oral surgery seventeen years ago. I only spent three months in the oral surgery department, but I had so much fun. I still remember a female patient with a lesion about 1cm diameter in her tongue. Patient stated discomfort when she ate strong tasting food. The lesion had a reddish appearance, and little bit of ulceration around it. We removed the lesion and did the biopsy. The biopsy showed the condyloma Acuminata representative.

Condyloma Acuminata is very common among young people, but they feel nervous and embarrassed when going to the clinic and talk about it. Therefore, it is very important for people to know the information that this disease is treatable and controllable. People also need to know the way to protect themselves and prevent this disease from transmitting. Condyloma Acuminata is not fatal, but if left it no treat will cause a lot of other long-term problems, such as Cervix cancer and Oropharynx cancer. As dental hygiene students, we may see oral appearance of the condyloma Acuminata in the clinic, so having knowledge of this disease will help us to better identify the symptoms, diagnose the possible diseases that patients may have and help them to find a correct treatment.

Reference

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