Laser treatment of genital warts

A laser session, at the practice, with Dr Gatri

01 What is it?

Genital warts (condylomas) are benign warts caused by a virus, the **human papillomavirus (HPV)**. They are mostly passed on during sex.

In women, they are found on the **vulva**, the **perineum** and **around the anus**; sometimes also inside the vagina, on the cervix or in the urethra.

Genital warts do not turn into cancer.

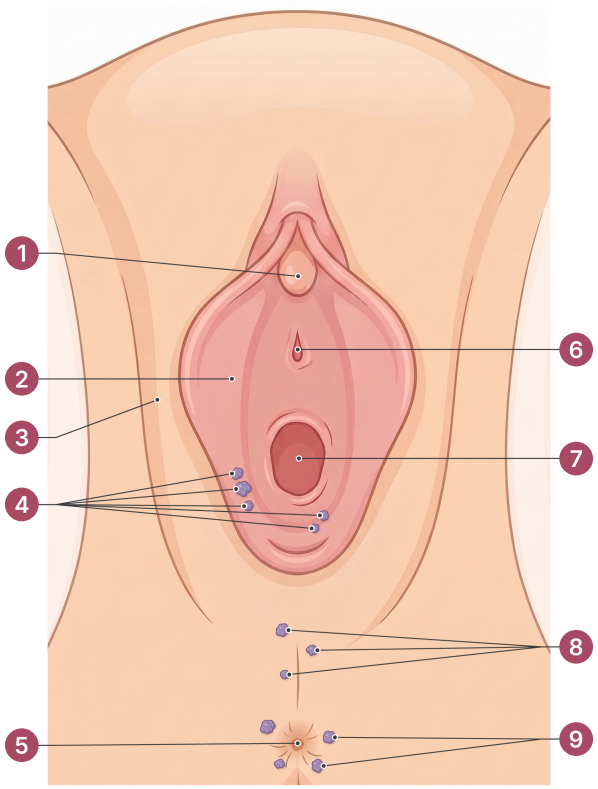


FIGURE 1 — The vulva and the perineum, front view (diagram). In purple, genital warts: on the vulva, on the perineum and around the anus.

1. Clitoris
2. Labia minora
3. Labia majora
4. Genital warts on the vulva
5. Anus
6. Urethral opening
7. Vaginal opening
8. Genital warts on the perineum
9. Genital warts around the anus

In purple: genital warts, small warts caused by HPV. Purple is used to point them out: in reality they are pink, greyish, skin-coloured or darker.

Front view: the right of the image is the patient's left side.

Diagram Wagram Clinic, 2026.

The **laser session** aims to remove the visible warts. It takes place **at the practice**, with the **Fotona gynaecological laser**.

02 Why this procedure?

Without treatment, genital warts may **disappear on their own** within a few months; but often they **grow in size and number**, and the physical and emotional discomfort can be significant.

Treatment aims to clear the visible warts, then to stop them coming back.

Does this treatment suit you? Ask Dr Gatri.

03 How does the procedure take place?

The session takes place **at the practice**. It is **carried out by Dr Gatri**. You go home the same day.

It is done **under local anaesthetic**, for example an injection of anaesthetic under the skin of the area to be treated.

The session lasts 20 to 30 minutes.

The number of sessions: ask Dr Gatri.

04 What the procedure does not guarantee

The treatment does not always work: the warts may **persist**, or clear and then **come back**.

After treatment, they come back in **about 30 to 60% of cases** according to studies.

The virus can be passed on even when there are no visible warts.

05 Risks and complications

Treatment with heat or a laser can cause **pain**, **irritation** or **scarring**.

06 Alternatives

Doing nothing is possible: genital warts sometimes disappear on their own within a few months.

Other treatments exist: **creams or liquids** that you apply yourself to the warts, over several weeks; **freezing** (cryotherapy); **surgery**, under local anaesthetic; **electrosurgery**; an **acid** applied by the doctor.

Your preference counts in the choice of treatment.

07 Contraindications

If you are pregnant or think you may be, tell Dr Gatri: the choice of treatment takes it into account.

If your immunity is weakened (an illness or a treatment), tell her too: a regular gynaecological and anal examination is then recommended.

08 Before the procedure

The diagnosis is made by examination. It looks for warts on the vulva, the perineum, around the anus, in the vagina and on the cervix, with good lighting, sometimes with a magnifying lens or a colposcope; a liquid, acetic acid, can make them easier to see.

If the diagnosis is in doubt, **a biopsy** of the lesion is indicated to confirm it.

No need to fast.

09 After the procedure and your instructions

For 15 days after the session: no sexual intercourse, no baths, no swimming pool. As long as warts remain, **use a condom** during sex, until they have gone; it does not protect skin it does not cover.

Do not share sex toys.

Do not smoke: smoking is linked to more genital warts and to warts coming back more often.

Your partner or partners may want to be checked: they may have warts and not know it.

A follow-up visit takes place **3 months** after the session.

10 When to seek medical advice without delay

If anything worries you after the session, **contact the practice**.

11 Your questions for Dr Gatri

For example: does this treatment suit me? how many sessions will I need? how does the session go? how long will healing take? what if the warts come back? should my partner see a doctor?