

# Oral beats topical isotretinoin for treatment of warts

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(HealthDay)—Oral isotretinoin shows a better and earlier response than

topical isotretinoin for the treatment of plane warts, according to a small study published online Sept. 13 in the *International Journal of Dermatology*.

Gagan J. Kaur, M.D., from the Guru Gobind Singh Medical College in Faridkot, India, and colleagues randomized [patients](#) with plane warts to treatment with either oral isotretinoin capsules (0.5 mg/kg/day; 16 patients) or topical isotretinoin (0.05 percent in gel formulation once daily at night; 13 patients). Treatment continued for three months or until there was complete clearance of lesions.

The researchers found that 11 of 16 patients (69 percent) had complete remission with oral treatment and five (31 percent) had partial remission. For those treated with topical treatment, five of 13 patients (38 percent) had complete remission and six (46 percent) had partial remission. Two patients treated topically had no remission. The difference in [remission](#) was statistically significant between the two groups (P treatment, five patients dropped out because of severe erythema and scaling).

"Oral isotretinoin should definitely be given a trial, particularly in cases of multiple facial warts, before trying various destructive procedures," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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