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Warts (Bovine Papilloma Virus) in Cattle

Warts are a contagious disease of young cattle caused by papilloma virus (Bovine Papilloma Virus (BPV 1-12)).

Warts most commonly affect animals less than two years of age. Older animals have usually been exposed early on in life and have developed immunity.

Warts present as hairless wart-like projection around the eyes, face, head, genitalia, teat and in severe cases all over the body.



The virus enters the skin through a graze or cut. The virus is spread by direct contact with a carried animal or objects or equipment that an infected animal has had contact with.

Diagnosis is based on the characteristic clinical presentation.

In most cases the treatment is unnecessary and spontaneous recovery occurs (1 months to 1 year).

Warts in locations that interfere with function (such as perianal warts) may be removed by surgical intervention, cryosurgery or electrocautery.

The use of autogenous vaccine made from homogenized lesions has been shown to hasten clinical recovery.