HPV infection in women: psychosexual impact of genital warts and intraepithelial lesions

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The Journal of Sexual Medicine, 2009 Mar; 6 (3): 633-645

Genital Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection is the most commonly occurring sexually transmitted viral infection in humans. HPV is a wide family of DNA viruses which may cause benign skin and mucosal tumors (genital, anal or oral warts), or malignant cancers in different organs. Women are more susceptible to the oncogenic effect of HPVs, mostly at the genital site and on the uterine cervix.

The literature on HPVs is substantial and increasing. However, research investigating the relationship between HPV infections and sexual dysfunctions in women is limited. It is only in recent years that research in this area has increased. This has occurred in parallel with the growing rate of infections and consequent psychosocial burden.

The paper will analyze the impact of HPVs infections on women's psychosexual health. Medical consequences such as urogenital and proctological comorbidity will be included when they interfere with the sexuality of the woman and the couple.

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