



Topical Immunotherapy with DPCP

Your doctor is prescribing a therapy for you or your child called "DPCP. This stands for the chemical name "diphenylcyclopropenone". This medicine is sometimes referred to as "liquid poison ivy", although it does not contain any poison ivy. When applied to the skin in a very weak concentration, it causes a very mild allergic reaction that has been shown to help patients with warts (and also used sometimes in alopecia areata, a type of hair loss). This is expected and a desired outcome.

Therapy typically begins with application of 2% DPCP solution to the skin during the office visit. This is not painful, but some mild redness or scaling may develop at the site. Rarely, a more severe or widespread rash may develop, occasionally with the formation of blisters. It is more common to see no significant reaction at all, but please note that this does not mean the medicine isn't working.

The DPCP 2% was applied today.(Only one wart if you have multiple).

Do not get wet or cover for 4 hours after the application.

You will be given a prescription for a weaker solution of DPCP to continue at home. This is made by a compounding pharmacist. This cannot be billed to your insurance. The doctor will tell you how and where to apply the medicine, as well as how often you should use it. Typically, a thin layer is applied to the skin at bedtime with a cotton swab. It is important that you do not apply the medicine to areas of normal skin. You should take care not to spill the medicine or get it on your hands. You should always wash your hands thoroughly after handling the medicine. The bottle should be stored in a dark place and kept out of reach of children and pets.

Typically, you will be instructed to wait a full week before beginning to apply the medication one night per week. The patient may experience some mild redness, itching, or soreness at the application site. This is normal and indicates desired activity of the immune system. However, you may see no reaction at all. Again, this does not mean the medicine isn't working. Typically, the doctor will still tell you it is okay to gradually increase use of the medicine to two or three nights per week (on non-consecutive days) if the patient is tolerating it well.

Care when you go home

1. After 1 week you can begin using the product you have at home DPCP 0.01%. If tolerated you can apply to more than one of your warts if you have multiple.Wash hands.

Use the end of a Qtip with the cotton tip broke off, dip the stick into the medication and apply to wart.

Be careful not to get on normal skin.

This will dry very quickly

Wash your hands after applying your medication.

Do not get wet or cover for 4 hours after the application

2. Apply the DPCP using above instructions once per week for 2 weeks on non consecutive nights

Wash hands.

Use the end of a Qtip with the cotton tip broke off, dip the stick into the medication and apply to wart.

Be careful not to get on normal skin.

This will dry very quickly

Wash your hands after applying your medication.

Do not get wet or cover for 4 hours after the application

3. After the 2 weeks, increase use of DPCP to 2 times per week on non-consecutive nights

Wash hands.

Use the end of a Qtip with the cotton tip broke off and dip the stick into the medication and apply to wart.

Be careful not to get on normal skin.

This will dry very quickly

Wash your hands after applying your medication.

Do not get wet or cover for 4 hours after the application.

If tolerating after 2 weeks you can increase use to 3 times per week on Non consecutive nights, applying as directed above.

Continue using until your next office visit with the physician.

Please keep in mind that it may take several weeks or months before you see significant results with the use of this medication. Also, as will all treatments for these conditions, it is possible that DPCP will not work well for your child. We recommend that you use the medicine for at least 2-3 months before concluding that it is not working. At that time, the doctor will discuss the possibility of other treatment options for your child's condition, if appropriate.

If your child develops significant discomfort while using the medicine, or you have any questions or other concerns, please contact our office @ 847-499-5500

Follow up with the MD in 3 mos.