



# PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY

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## Cantharidin

### **Medication:**

Cantharidin

### **Use:**

A vesicant (blister-producing) agent applied topically for the removal of certain types of warts and tumors of the skin.

Cantharidin should be applied by a physician or podiatrist and not by the patient at home.

### **Side Effects:**

A rounded ridge may still be present after the wart is treated. These ridges are superficial, present little problem, and usually respond well to treatment. May cause tingling, itching, or burning within a few hours of application. Area may be extremely tender for 2 to 6 days. (Reactions occur more commonly in patients with fair skin and blue eyes.) Notify physician or pharmacist if tenderness is excessive and persistent.

### **Precautions:**

For **external use only**. Toxic, possibly even fatal if ingested (swallowed). Do not use over large areas.

Do not use if the patient is diabetic or if the patient has impaired peripheral circulation. Do not get in or around eyes. Do not apply to mucous membranes, anogenital areas, in body folds, or on any wart or lesions not indicated by physician, or being treated with another medication. Do not use on inflamed or irritated skin.

Cantharidin may produce blister on normal skin or mucous membranes. If spilled on skin, flush with water. Remove any remaining residue using acetone, alcohol, or tape remover. Wash skin with warm soapy water and rinse well. Contact physician or pharmacist. If spilled on mucous membranes or in eyes, flush immediately with water, remove any solidified material, and flush with water for an additional 15 minutes. Contact your physician or pharmacist.

### **Directions:**

Cantharidin liquid is applied lightly to the wart with a stick or swab, allowed to dry, and then covered by waterproof tape or occlusive dressing. Depending on the physician's or pharmacist's directions, the bandage is left in place between 12-48 hours, and then removed. (Physician may direct to remove tape after 24 hours and replace with loose bandage.) Although a single treatment usually suffices, physician may reapply after one or two weeks. Physician or pharmacist may instruct to apply antibacterial to prevent infection while tissue heals completely.

**For any questions, either talk to your healthcare provider or your pharmacist.**

