

New perioral warts in a patient with human immunodeficiency virus during the COVID-19 pandemic

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A 44-year-old man presented to a dermatology clinic with sudden onset of perioral warts (**Figure 1**) 4 weeks into the UK COVID-19 nationwide lockdown in April 2020. He had no other warts elsewhere and had no systemic symptoms including no fevers, weight loss or night sweats.

He had been diagnosed with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection 20 years earlier, but this was well-controlled on antiretroviral therapy with an undetectable viral load. He had no other past medical history and took no other regular medications. He had no history of perioral warts until he started wearing a surgical face mask. Two weeks after wearing a face mask daily, warts began to appear in a perioral distribution.

Perioral warts caused by human papillomavirus are well-recognised in people with HIV (Cameron and Hagensee, 2008); however, a precipitating trigger is often unclear (Baccaglini et al, 2007). New onset perioral warts have not previously been described in association with mask wearing, in people with HIV or any other setting.

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References

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Figure 1. Perioral warts.

How to cite this article:

Amarnani R, Bunker CB. New perioral warts in a patient with human immunodeficiency virus during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Br J Hosp Med.* 2023. <https://doi.org/10.12968/hmed.2022.0368>