
PEARLY PENILE PAPULES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS?

WILL PPPS GO AWAY BY THEMSELVES?

These papules are known to sometimes disappear as men age, but it's impossible to tell in whom the PPPs will come and go in, or why. The only way to make PPPs go away is by laser. Dr Rich believes that laser treatment is the safest, most effective treatment method. We know that after treatment, PPPs do not return.

WHY DO MEN WANT THEM REMOVED?

Laser treatment is purely cosmetic in nature. Unfortunately, the bumps can appear somewhat like genital warts and can make a man feel self-conscious about his penis' appearance, prompting the clinic visit to have them vaporised.

You can't pick at PPPs and make them go away nor can you apply topical ointments or preparations; you can only have them carefully removed. Picking can cause scarring and should be avoided and topical applications are ineffective and possibly irritating.

WHY DO THESE BUMPS APPEAR?

We don't know why they appear. We do know that they don't present any sexual or other issues, and are not a health concern. Men have long been worrying about their papules, but still, we are really no closer to knowing why they appear than we were when PPPs were first identified.

ARE THEY CONTAGIOUS?

PPPs are not contagious and are not an infection or sexually transmitted disease. You cannot give these little bumps to a sexual partner.

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PEARLY PENILE PAPULES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS? CONT.

DO THEY AFFECT SEX?

Generally PPPs are not considered to affect your sex life, but they can cause the penis in some men to become a little bit more sensitive. Each man will determine how this affects him personally; for most, it is not an issue.

DO PPPS AFFECT SEXUAL SENSITIVITY?

There is no real evidence that pearly penile papules affect sexual sensitivity, though they may have played a role in reproduction at some stage. Whether this was via sexual sensitivity or another avenue, we're not sure. Some men may have increased sensitivity with the papules, but the research isn't conclusive at all.

HOW MUCH DOES PPP REMOVAL COST?




Laser removal of PPPs will depend on individual presentation, the clinic, and the doctor. The best way to get an accurate estimate of costs is to give us a call and have a conversation with one of our nurses.

WHO WILL BE PERFORMING THE PROCEDURE?

The procedure is performed by Dr Michael Rich, who has been performing PPP erasure for decades.

For more FAQs and information visit our website.

If you would like to find out more about Pearly Penile Papules contact us for a consultation with one of our specialist nurses on 03 9500 9500

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Pearly Penile Papules

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WARNING: Pre & post procedural images overlaid.

Scientifically referred to as *hirsuties papillaris genitalis*, pearly penile papules (PPP's) are completely benign, meaning they are not dangerous and are in fact a normal variant of the skin. Penile papules have been reported to be present in between 8% and 43% of men and are more common in men that have not been circumcised.

These tiny bumps usually occur as a ring around the rim of the penis head. They are typically flesh-coloured, or a little lighter and have a smooth dome shape. Interestingly, they also seem to form in organized rows, like a string of pearls.

PPP's cause no harmful effects other than possible sensitivity during sex or other activities. They are definitely not contracted or spread through sexual activity, and are not due to excessive sexual activity or lack of hygiene. They are not infectious or contagious nor are they malignant or pre-malignant.

As a normal variant of skin, these little bumps are considered a normal characteristic of some penises and are non-infectious, benign growths. We're not sure why they occur, but they most often present in men in their twenties or thirties, but can occur any time throughout a man's life. Appearing as tiny pearls around the edge of the head of the penis, more often in uncircumcised men. It is possible that the bumps will appear and disappear on their own. Even though they are harmless, do not pick at them or try to pop them, as serious damage and or scarring, or infection could occur.

Up to forty three per cent of men can possibly develop PPPs, though not everyone wants them removed. They can come and go on their own. For some men, the papules can cause them to be self-conscious and embarrassed, and for these men they will chose to have the procedure for cosmetic reasons

Dr Michael Rich is one of the few specialist doctors who has treated 100's of treat pearly penile papules, and has patients come to him from all over Australia and overseas for this medically non-essential treatment, but often of great emotional and psychological benefit.

TREATMENT

Dr Rich prefers the Erbium laser as this technique is both quick and safe for removing the affected outer layers of the skin where the papules occur, without treating the deeper structures this minimizes the risk of scars.

The actual process is pretty straightforward – usually one laser session, and they're gone.

The laser is focused solely on the papules, and works from the outside in, vaporising your unwanted pearls. There is no damage to your penis at all, making our laser the perfect tool. At ENRICH, Dr Rich uses the Erbium laser for quick and precise elimination.

The appointment is quick and over before you know it. The area will produce a scab as you might expect from any cut or scrape, and will completely heal over well within a fortnight. A silicon gel is applied, which will require daily reapplication for a week, and you can expect the area to swell somewhat, with some initial bleeding. Good hygiene measures decrease the risk possibility of any infections.

Because PPPs hardly ever recur, as long as the recommended hygiene measures are followed, you can rest easy knowing that this is the only procedure you are likely to need.

