

PAPILLOMATOSIS IN LIVESTOCK (Also Known as Warts)

What is Papillomatosis?, How Does it Spread?, Is it Dangerous?



What is Papillomatosis?

Description

Papillomatosis is a skin condition in livestock caused by the **bovine papillomavirus (BPV)**. It results in **wart-like growths** on the skin, teats, neck, head, or even inside the mouth and digestive tract. Though they often look alarming, most warts are benign (non-cancerous).

How Does it Spread?

- Through **direct contact** with infected animals
 - **Contaminated tools** (dehorner, milking machines)
 - **Scratches or wounds** on the skin make infection easier
 - Calves and young animals are more vulnerable due to weaker immunity
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Symptoms

- Multiple raised, rough, and rounded skin growths
 - May be found on:
 - Head, neck, and shoulders
 - Udder and teats (affecting milking)
 - Around the eyes or mouth
 - In severe cases:
 - Difficulty in feeding or walking
 - Weight loss and stress
 - Secondary infections
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Is it Dangerous?

While not usually fatal, **papillomatosis affects productivity**. Warts on teats, for example, can make milking painful and increase mastitis risk. In breeding bulls, warts on the penis or sheath can affect mating.

Treatment Options

- **Leave alone:** Small warts in healthy animals may fall off with time
 - **Surgical removal or cryotherapy** (vet recommended for larger warts)
 - **Autogenous vaccines:** Created from the animal's own wart tissue
 - Boosting general **immunity** can help prevent reoccurrence
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Prevention Tips

- Avoid sharing needles or grooming tools
 - Disinfect equipment regularly
 - Isolate new or infected animals
 - Keep skin healthy and reduce injuries
 - Maintain proper nutrition and mineral supplementation
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Final Thought

Papillomatosis may not kill your animal, but it silently **steals performance**. Watch out for strange skin growths and act early!

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