

LETTERS

WART TREATMENTS

Study ignored patient views in wart recommendations

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I am surprised that Cockayne and colleagues overlooked patient satisfaction in the discussion and conclusion of their randomised controlled trial of cryotherapy and salicylic acid for plantar warts.¹ The only significant results were better patient satisfaction with cryotherapy, across all timeframes.

Why measure and report this and then ignore it in recommendations? When treatment effects were equal, patients preferred cryotherapy, perhaps because it demanded less of them on a daily basis. Cost is an important factor in

recommendations, but satisfaction matters and is linked to acceptability and adherence.

Competing interests: None declared.

1 Cockayne S, Hewitt C, Hicks K, Jayakody S, Kang'ombe AR, Stamuli E, et al on behalf of the EVerT Team. Cryotherapy versus salicylic acid for the treatment of plantar warts (verrucae): a randomised controlled trial. *BMJ* 2011;342:d3271. (7 June.)

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