Human papillomavirus infection

Pathology

Pathogenesis of genital warts

Epithelial 'trauma'



HPV entry into basal germinal layer of epithelium



Expression of viral early proteins

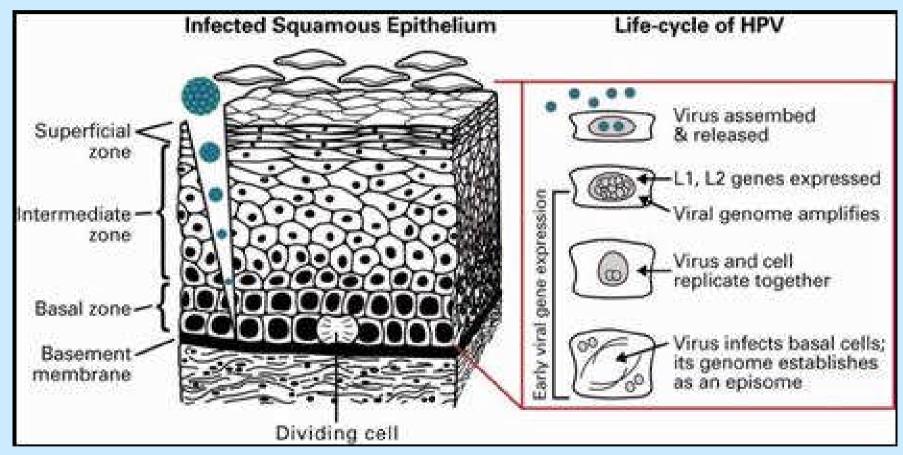


Cellular proliferation



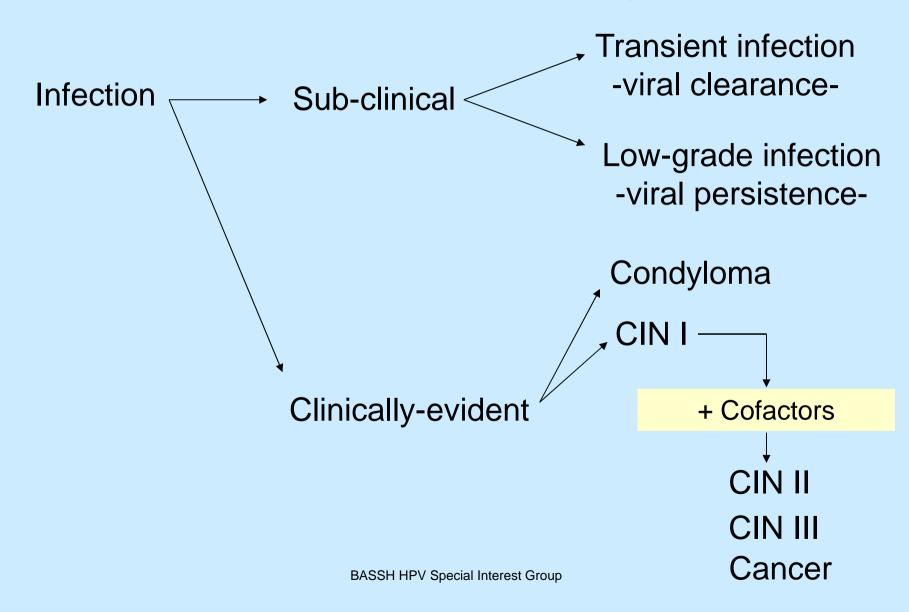
Capsid proteins produced in superficial layers of epithelium

Productive life cycle of HPV is linked to epithelial differentiation



Source: http://www.merckmedicus.com/pp/us/hcp/diseasemodules/hpvd/natural-history.jsp; May 2007

HPV natural history



Cofactors in HPV disease

- Environmental
 - Smoking
- Immunological
 - Biological aging
 - Immunosuppression (HIV, transplant recipients)
 - Genetic (Li-Fraumeni syndrome; HLA polymorphisms)

Duration of HPV infection

	HPV types	Months, median
		(95% CI)
Franco (1999)*	"Oncogenic types"	8.1 (7.8-8.3)
	"Nononcogenic types"	4.8 (3.9-5.6)
Woodman (2001)**	HPV-16	10.3 (6.8-17.3)
	HPV-18	7.8 (6.0-12.6)

^{*}J Infect Dis. 1999 Nov;180(5):1415-23

^{**}Lancet. 2001 Jun 9;357(9271):1831-6

Limitations of HPV studies

- Assay sensitivity: NAAT vs DNA hybridisation studies
- Assay specificity: complicated by multiple HPV types
- Multiple HPV infections at same site
- Absence of detection ≠ Absence of infection

Histological features of HPV infection

- Koilocytosis
- Acanthosis
- Multinucleation
- Hyperkeratosis and parakeratosis
- Papillomatosis

Correlation of aceto-white lesions and confirmatory diagnostic tests

91 men with aceto white lesions

78 (86%) penoscopy appearance of GPV1

56 (62%) penoscopy and histopathology agreement

55 (60%) penoscopy and hybridisation assay

Wikstrom 1992