

INTRODUCING SWIFT®: MICROWAVE THERAPY FOR VERRUCAS

WHAT IS SWIFT®?

Swift is the pioneering new microwave therapy for verrucas. Swift technology, developed in the UK, has been licensed for the treatment of verrucas in Podiatry. Swift uses microwave energy which is delivered through a special probe applied to the skin to treat the affected tissue. With treatment times in seconds, Swift provides verruca sufferers with a new, precise and easy way of treating stubborn or recurrent verrucas.



INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

HOW MICROWAVE THERAPY WORKS

The use of microwave energy is what makes Swift treatments so effective. Microwaves work by generating heat in the verruca to a maximum depth of 3.2mm which does not break the surface of the skin and destroy tissue unlike Cryo-therapy or acids. This is what sets Swift apart from traditional treatments. Water molecules within the tissue begin colliding and creating localised heat energy. This localised heating prompts a healing response within this area which activates the body's immune system to clear the virus that causes the verruca.

This process takes just 2-5 seconds, for a typical treatment.



Infected tissue can exist several millimetres below the surface and can often be difficult to treat using traditional methods, resulting in either untreated tissue or significant damage.



Swift delivers a precise, highly controlled energy dose. As microwaves travel into the tissue, water molecules begin colliding and creating localised heat energy – quickly destroying all infected tissue within a predetermined depth.



In just seconds the treatment is complete and the healing cascade begins immediately. Treated tissue is quickly replaced, repaired and regenerated.

HOW SAFE ARE MICROWAVES?

Microwaves have been in clinical use for over 30 years, and are used globally in the effective treatment of cancer. Microwaves are a form of non-ionising radiation, which means that they can't cause damage to the DNA of living things. One of the first published papers on the use of microwaves in medicine was in 1986 – where researchers from Japan described a method of treating liver tumours. Those techniques have advanced significantly since then, and Emblation – the company behind Swift, is a key technology supplier to the largest medical device company in the world operating in this space. The same fundamental technology that powers Swift, is also being used in the treatment of lung, liver, kidney and breast cancer in countries all over the world.

TREATMENTS AT LOWER POWER

The Swift system delivers very low energy levels when compared with other electromagnetic energy forms. The Swift microwave treatment is only capable of supplying enough energy to agitate water molecules and cause friction, as opposed to damaging DNA, and deliver less energy into the skin than most laser and electrocautery treatments.

MICROWAVES IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Aside from the kitchen appliance, microwaves are used in a number of everyday applications. Standard wifi uses microwaves, mobile phones, bluetooth, and cordless phones all use microwaves to send data over short distances. Furthermore, most satellite communications systems (including GPS navigation systems) are also based on the use of microwaves – we interact with microwaves in more ways than we know, every day.

FAQs

DOES IT HURT?

Like many treatments for skin lesions, some minor discomfort may be experienced. Discomfort levels vary from person to person but most people undergoing Swift liken it to a scratch or a hot sensation, lasting 2 - 3 seconds then quickly subsiding. Normally, any discomfort ends as soon as the treatment is finished.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER TREATMENT?

Normally, there is no pain after treatment. In some cases, the treated area may feel a little sore but will not prevent you undertaking normal daily activities. One of the great things about Swift is there is no broken skin so you don't need any dressings and no need to keep it dry. Unlike treatments like Cryo-therapy and acids you can do anything you wish including swimming and bathing.

HOW MANY TREATMENTS WILL I NEED?

Swift Microwave Technology for Verrucae promises a MUCH greater success rate than any previous verruca treatments. Independent research on treatment with Swift shows 76% of Verrucae are successfully cleared and of these, 94% clear within 3 treatments. It is therefore likely that no more than a maximum of three treatments will be needed. However, this is dependent on how you respond to treatment and the number of verrucas. In some cases, more than 3 treatments will be required when treating particularly large or multiple verrucae.

CAN ANYONE RECEIVE THIS TREATMENT?

With a few exceptions, almost anyone who has stubborn verrucas can benefit from Swift. We do not recommend treatment during pregnancy, if you have a pacemaker fitted or if there is any surgical metalwork within the foot being treated. Your Podiatrist will carry out an assessment prior to treatment and be able to advise you on this.

WHAT WILL THE VERRUCA LOOK LIKE AFTER IT HAS BEEN TREATED AND HOW QUICKLY WILL IT WORK?

Immediately after the treatment there will be no change to the appearance of the verruca. A change should start to show after a few days. Swift works by prompting an immune response and time is needed for the process to gather pace. That is why there is a gap of at least two weeks between treatments. As the treatment begins to work the verruca will shrink in from the edges at the same time as reducing in thickness. It may also become darker in appearance. The dermal ridges or 'fingerprint' of the underlying tissue will gradually re-establish itself as the verruca resolves. The Swift device has shown no evidence of scarring.



DOES USING SWIFT VERRUCA TREATMENT MEAN THAT THE VERRUCA WON'T COME BACK?

Once the wart/verruca has gone, it is usually gone for good. However, even though Swift works by prompting an immune response and production of the appropriate antibodies resulting in a degree of immunity, there can never be a guarantee that you won't catch another at some point in the future.



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