VIN (Vulvar Intraepithelial Neoplasia)

Vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia (VIN) is a precancerous condition of the vulvar skin. In its most severe form, it is called carcinoma in situ of the vulva. Genital warts caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV) infection have been linked to some types of VIN. VIN can progress to invasive cancer of the vulva. This happens in only a small portion of cases and usually progresses slowly.

Patients may be without symptoms or may complain of itching or burning. Raised brown, red, pink, white, or gray lesions of the vulva may be present. Tests to diagnose VIN include colposcopy (viewing of the cervix, vulva or vagina under magnification with a special instrument) and biopsy.

Treatment options vary depending on the extent of the lesion, the severity of the dysplasia and the presence of other medical problems (tobacco use, diabetes, transplant). Options include observation, topical chemotherapeutic agents, and surgical excision. VIN can occur in the setting of other vulvar skin conditions like lichen sclerosis or squamous cell hyperplasia. It is important to do vulvar self-exams and continue maintenance exams to your practitioner at least every six months.