



HPV VACCINE IS CANCER PREVENTION

HPV Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness

HPV vaccination provides safe, effective, and long-lasting protection against cancers caused by HPV.

HPV vaccination prevents cancer

Human papillomavirus (HPV) infects about 14 million people, including teens, each year. While most HPV infections go away on their own, infections that don't go away can lead to certain types of cancer. Every year, 32,500 men and women develop a cancer caused by HPV. **HPV vaccination could prevent more than 90% of these cancers from ever developing.** The vaccine is made from one protein from the virus, and is not infectious, meaning it *cannot* cause HPV infection or cancer.

HPV vaccination is safe for boys and girls

With over 100 million doses distributed in the United States, HPV vaccine has a reassuring safety record that is backed by over 10 years of monitoring and research. All vaccines used in the United States are required to go through years of extensive safety testing before they are licensed. Once in use, public health officials continuously monitor their safety and effectiveness.

Since the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensed the vaccine, scientists and vaccine researchers have conducted large research studies to monitor and evaluate safety. These studies show that HPV vaccine is safe and is not associated with any serious safety concerns.

HPV vaccination works

The HPV vaccine works extremely well. Since HPV vaccination was introduced over 10 years ago, infections with HPV types that cause most HPV cancers and genital warts have dropped 71 percent among teen girls. Research has also shown that fewer women are developing cervical precancers (abnormal cells on the cervix that can lead to cancer).

HPV vaccination provides long-lasting protection

Studies suggest that the protection provided by HPV vaccine is long lasting. Studies have followed people who received HPV vaccine for about 10 years, and protection has remained high in those individuals with no evidence of the protection decreasing over time.

HPV vaccination can cause side effects

Like any vaccine or medicine, HPV vaccination can cause side effects. The most common side effects are mild and include pain, redness, or swelling in the arm where the shot is given; dizziness, fainting, nausea, and headache. Fainting after any vaccine, including HPV vaccine, is more common among adolescents. To prevent fainting and injuries related to fainting, anyone receiving HPV vaccine should be seated or lying down during vaccination and remain in that position for 15 minutes after the vaccine is given. **The benefits of HPV vaccination far outweigh any potential risk of side effects.**

HPV vaccination doesn't negatively affect fertility

There is no evidence to suggest that HPV vaccine causes fertility problems. However, not getting HPV vaccine leaves people vulnerable to HPV cancers and precancers. Women who develop a precancer or cancer caused by HPV could require treatment that would limit their ability to have children, such as a hysterectomy, chemotherapy, or radiation. Treatment for cervical precancer could also put a woman at risk for problems with her cervix, which could cause preterm delivery.

How can I get help paying for vaccines?

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides vaccines for children ages 18 years and younger, who are uninsured, Medicaid-eligible, American Indian or Alaska Native. Learn more at

www.cdc.gov/Features/VFCprogram