

HPV VACCINATION - PREVENT CANCER IN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

HPV (Human Papillomavirus) is a virus passed from one person to another during skin-to-skin contact. Almost every person will be exposed to HPV, and close to 50% will become infected, usually between the ages of 16-20 years of age. In some people the virus will stay dormant in the body and resurface as cancer later in life. Over 80 million people in the United States are infected with HPV, and each year related cancers are diagnosed: cervical, vaginal/vulvar, rectal, anal, penile and throat cancers. By vaccinating your preteen with the HPV vaccine, you can dramatically decrease their risk of getting these cancers as adults. In 2016, a consortium of all the academic cancer centers published a position paper stating that every 11-12 year-old child should receive HPV vaccination to prevent HPV- related cancers. As of 2023, both the ACIP and CDC recommend routine HPV vaccination for every child aged 9-12 years old.

IS THE VACCINE SAFE?

Yes! The vaccine has been in use in the US since 2006, and longer in Europe. Over 100,000,000 doses have been administered and studies have shown no significant health risks associated with the HPV vaccine. Just like any other vaccine your child receives there can be pain at the injection site - that's it. It does not cause death, seizures, premature ovarian failure, or neurologic symptoms. Anecdotes on social media are scary but not based on scientific facts.

WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED TO RECEIVE HPV VACCINE AT AGE 11-12?

Studies show this is the age that the vaccine is most effective at mounting a protective immune response. The vaccine only works if antibodies are made in the body well before the exposure to the virus. Two doses are given 6-12 months apart for complete immunity. Waiting until your child is closer to sexual intimacy is ill-advised. Studies show that almost 50% of people test positive for HPV prior to first intercourse - the virus can be spread through touch and is present in saliva. The HPV vaccine can't help protect your child if they become infected with HPV prior to vaccination.

DOCTOR, DID YOU GIVE THE HPV VACCINE TO YOUR CHILDREN?

Yes! The doctors of Chestnut Ridge Pediatrics made sure their children received the HPV vaccine at or before 11 years old. We want to reduce our children's risk of getting HPV related cancers and we know the vaccine works and is safe. Our younger physicians received the HPV vaccine themselves when it was first FDA approved in 2006. Make the informed decision to protect your children from HPV infection and cancer, too. **VACCINATE NOW!**

REFERENCES

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/teen/hpv-indepth-color.pdf>
<https://mediachop.edu/data/files/pdfs/vaccine-education-center-hpv.pdf>
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