THE FACTS:

What you should know about HPV, cervical cancer, and genital warts.

1 What is HPV?

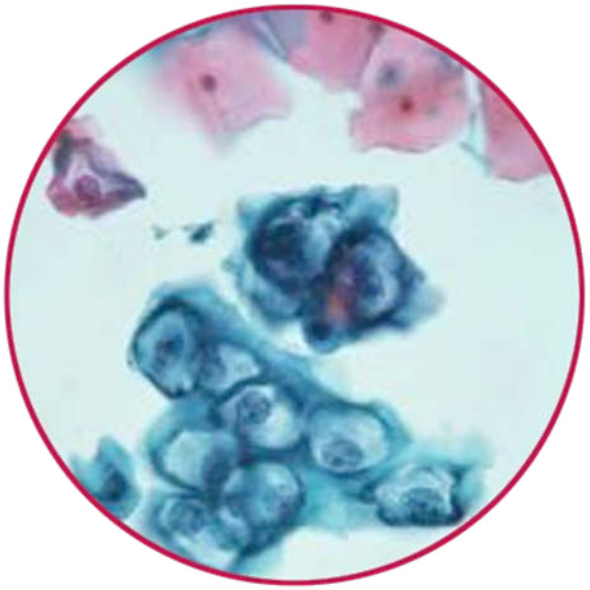
2 Who gets HPV?

3 What diseases can be caused by HPV?

4 How can you help protect yourself?

What is HPV?

HPV can infect anyone



1

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a widespread virus that can infect most males and females in their lifetime.

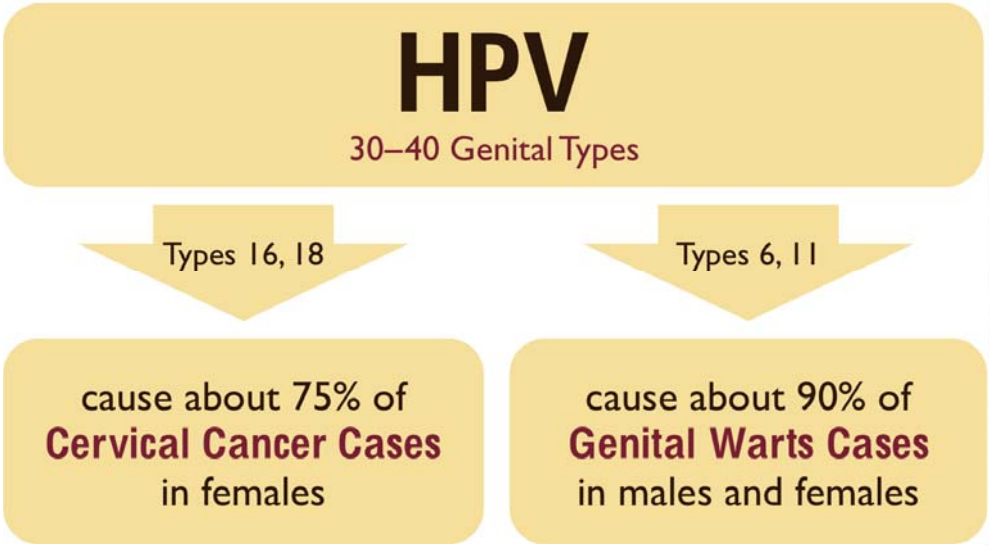
For most, HPV clears on its own.

But, for others who don't clear certain types, HPV could have significant consequences: cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers in females. Other types could cause genital warts in both males and females. And there is no way to predict who will or won't clear the virus.

There are 4 types of HPV you should know about

While there are more than 30 types of genital HPV, there are 4 types that you should really know about.

The types of HPV that cause cervical cancer are different from the types that cause genital warts. Other female cancers caused by HPV Types 16 and 18 include vaginal and vulvar cancers. All HPV types that affect the genital area can cause abnormal Pap tests.



Who gets HPV?

HPV infects both women and men

You can get the virus through any kind of genital contact with someone who has HPV—that means intercourse isn't necessary.

Many people who have HPV don't even know it, because the virus often has no signs or symptoms. That means you can get the virus or pass it on to your partner without knowing it.

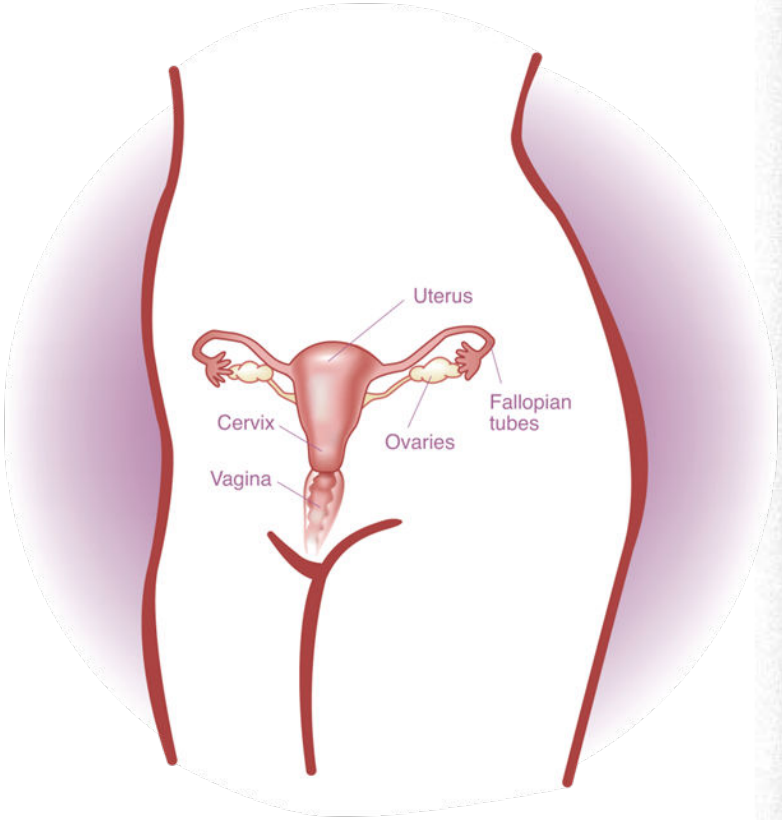
Transmission of HPV happens to many people during their first 2 to 3 years of sexual contact.

What diseases can be caused by HPV?

Cervical cancer

Based on American Cancer Society estimates, about 30 women a day are diagnosed with cervical cancer in the United States. (That's about 11,000 women a year.)

Cervical cancer is cancer of the cervix (the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina). Unlike other cancers, cervical cancer is not considered to be passed down through family genes. It is caused by certain types of HPV.



Cervical cancer (continued)

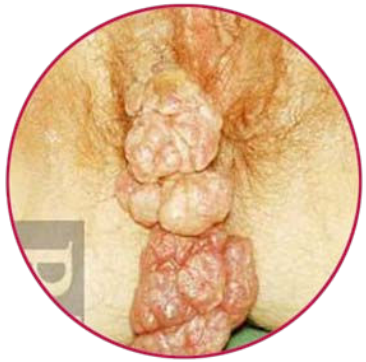
When a woman becomes infected with certain types of HPV, and the virus doesn't go away on its own, abnormal cells can develop in the lining of the cervix. If these abnormal cells are not found early and treated, precancers and then cervical cancer can develop.

While half of all women diagnosed with cervical cancer are between 35 and 55 years old, many of these women were probably exposed to cancer-causing HPV types in their teens and 20s.

Genital warts: Another disease caused by HPV

While certain types of HPV can cause cervical cancer in females, other types can cause genital warts in both males and females.

Genital warts are usually flesh-colored growths that can be raised or flat, small or large, and alone or in cauliflower-like clusters.



Genital warts are easily transmitted

About 2 out of 3 people will get genital warts after having any kind of genital contact with someone infected.

It is estimated that each minute in the United States, there is a new case of genital warts.

Treating genital warts

Genital warts sometimes disappear on their own without treatment. But there is no way to know if they will disappear or grow larger.

Treatments for genital warts can be a painful process and can involve cutting, freezing, or burning the warts.

Even after treatment, genital warts can come back. In fact, 25% of cases come back within 3 months.

HPV FACT RECAP:

- HPV will affect an estimated 75% to 80% of males and females in their lifetime.*
- There are about 6 million new cases of genital HPV in the United States each year.*
- For most, HPV clears on its own.
- But, for others who don't clear certain types, HPV could have significant consequences: cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers in females. Other types could cause genital warts in both males and females.
- Every day in the U.S. 30 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer (about 11,000 women per year) and it is estimated that each minute, there is a new case of genital warts.

*Number represents more than 30 genital HPV types, not just HPV Types 6, 11, 16, and 18.

How can you help protect yourself?

Information About GARDASIL

GARDASIL is the **only human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine** that helps protect against 4 types of HPV.

- In girls and young women ages 9 to 26, GARDASIL helps protect against 2 types of HPV that cause about 75% of cervical cancer cases, and 2 more types that cause 90% of genital warts cases.
- In boys and young men ages 9 to 26, GARDASIL helps protect against 90% of genital warts cases.
- GARDASIL also helps protect girls and young women ages 9 to 26 against 70% of vaginal cancer cases and up to 50% of vulvar cancer cases.

GARDASIL®
[Human Papillomavirus Quadrivalent (Types 6, 11, 16, and 18) Vaccine, Recombinant]

Information About GARDASIL

GARDASIL may not fully protect everyone, nor will it protect against diseases caused by other HPV types or against diseases not caused by HPV.

GARDASIL does not prevent all types of cervical cancer, so it's important for women to continue routine cervical cancer screenings.

GARDASIL does not treat cancer or genital warts.

GARDASIL is given as 3 injections over 6 months.

GARDASIL®
[Human Papillomavirus Quadrivalent (Types 6, 11, 16, and 18) Vaccine, Recombinant]

Important Safety Information

Anyone who is allergic to the ingredients of GARDASIL, including those severely allergic to yeast, should not receive the vaccine.

GARDASIL is not for women who are pregnant.

The side effects include pain, swelling, itching, bruising, and redness at the injection site, headache, fever, nausea, dizziness, vomiting, and fainting. Fainting can happen after getting GARDASIL. Sometimes people who faint can fall and hurt themselves. For this reason, your health care professional may ask you to sit or lie down for 15 minutes after you get GARDASIL. Some people who faint might shake or become stiff. This may require evaluation or treatment by your health care professional.

Only a doctor or health care professional can decide if GARDASIL is right for you.

GARDASIL®
[Human Papillomavirus Quadrivalent (Types 6, 11, 16, and 18) Vaccine, Recombinant]

It's not too late to get vaccinated

If you're already sexually active, you may still benefit from GARDASIL. That's because even if you have been exposed to HPV, you may not have been exposed to the 4 types of the virus covered by GARDASIL.

Remember: 3 doses is key

GARDASIL is given as 3 injections over 6 months.

Important Safety Information

Read the Patient Product Information or the Prescribing Information for GARDASIL and discuss it with your doctor or health care professional.

GARDASIL®
[Human Papillomavirus Quadrivalent (Types 6, 11, 16, and 18) Vaccine, Recombinant]

Cervical cancer screenings are important

GARDASIL does not prevent all types of cervical cancer, so it's important for women to continue routine cervical cancer screenings.

Pap tests look for abnormal cervical cells in the lining of the cervix before they have a chance to become precancers and then cervical cancer.

Most often this change takes a number of years. But in rare cases it can happen within a year.

GARDASIL®
[Human Papillomavirus Quadrivalent (Types 6, 11, 16, and 18) Vaccine, Recombinant]

Keep making smart choices

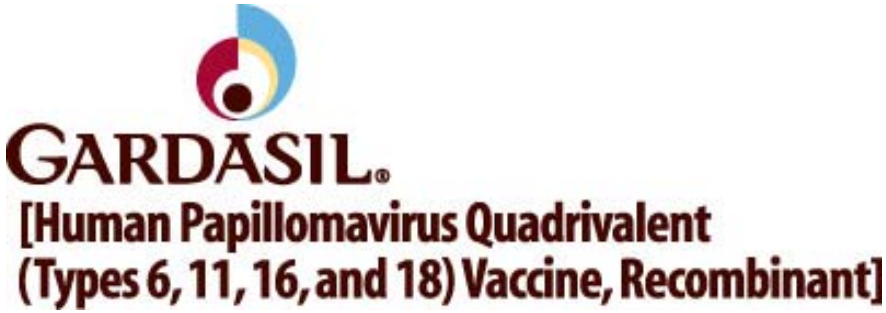
The only way you can totally protect yourself against HPV is to avoid any sexual activity that involves genital contact.

If you are having any kind of sexual contact:

- Use a condom—though it's unknown how much HPV protection condoms actually provide.
- Limit your sexual partners.
- Guys can't get screened for HPV. So there is no way to know whether a guy could expose you to the virus.

If you have more questions about HPV or the diseases it can cause, talk with your doctor or health care professional.

For more information, visit gardasil.com.



GARDASIL®

[Human Papillomavirus Quadrivalent (Types 6, 11, 16, and 18) Vaccine, Recombinant]

GARDASIL is a registered trademark of Merck & Co., Inc.
Copyright © 2010 Merck & Co., Inc. All rights reserved.

21050809(1)-04/10-GRD