

PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER

Get Screened Regularly

Make sure you get a routine Pap Smear and if you are 30 or older (or if your Pap result is unclear), ask your healthcare provider for the HPV test. It's one extra test – but a lot more peace of mind.

What is HPV?

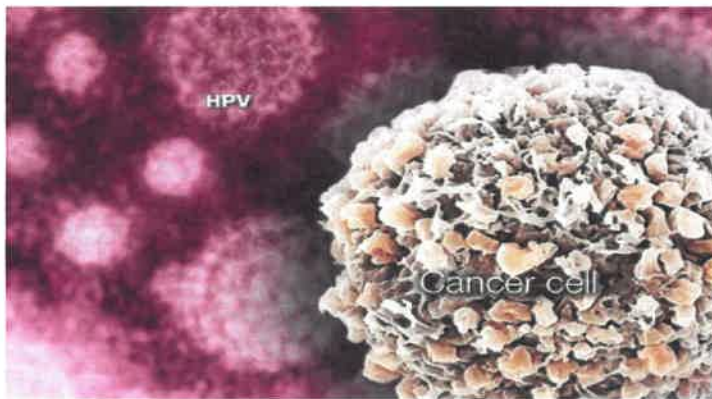
- HPV stands for “Human Papilloma Virus.”
- HPV is a very common virus. In fact, it's estimated that 8 out of every 10 women get HPV by the age of 50.
- Men also can get HPV. However, it is rare for HPV to cause serious problems in men.

How is HPV linked to cervical cancer?

- Certain “high-risk” types of HPV cause cervical cancer.
- For most women, HPV goes away before it causes any problems. For some women, however, the infection persists.
- When the infection doesn't go away, abnormal cells may form on the cervix.
- Abnormal cells can develop into cervical cancer if they are not detected and treated early.

Can the HPV vaccine prevent infection?

- The HPV vaccine protects against two types of HPV that cause 70 percent of cervical cancers.
- The first HPV vaccine was approved by the FDA in June 2006 for girls and young women age 9-26. It is most effective for girls and women who have not been exposed to the two types of HPV that the vaccine protects against.
- The vaccine is not a cure for existing infections. Women should be screened regularly with the Pap and (if 30 or older) the HPV test, even if they have been vaccinated. Ask your doctor or nurse about the tests and the schedule that are best for you.



REFERENCES:

<http://www.thehpvtest.com>