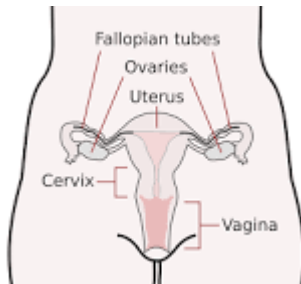


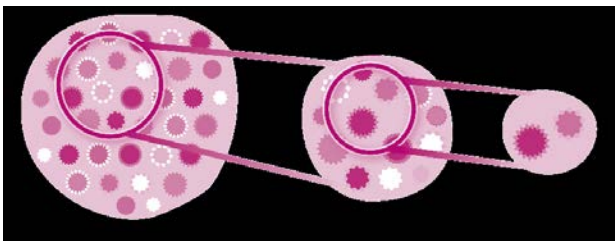
HPV Vaccination – Information for Parents

What is cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer affects the cervix – the entrance to the womb. This cancer is caused by the human papillomavirus or HPV, which is spread from one person to another during sexual activity. There are over 100 types of human papillomaviruses but only 13 of these are known to cause cervical cancer and just two – types 16 and 18 – cause over 70% of the cases.



The HPV vaccine is being offered to your daughter to protect her against cervical cancer. In most people, the virus does not cause cancer but in some people it does. Around 1000 women die from cervical cancer in the UK each year.



There are over 100 types of human papillomavirus
More than a dozen of these cause cervical cancer...
...and two of these types – 16 and 18 – cause over 70% of the cases of cervical cancer

How does the virus cause cancer?

The virus gets into the surface cells of the cervix where it can stay for several years without causing any harm. Then it may start to cause damage to these cells. The purpose of cervical screening is to detect these changes which, if detected early enough, can be treated to prevent cancer developing. If they are left untreated, cancer can develop and may lead to serious illness and death.

Does the vaccine protect against all cervical cancer?

The HPV vaccine protects against the two virus types (types 16 and 18) that cause over 70% of cervical cancer. The vaccine does not protect against all of the other

cancer-causing types, so it's vital that women still go for routine cervical screening tests when they are older

Having the vaccine reduces the risk of your daughter getting cervical cancer by over 70%

Does the vaccine protect against other sexually transmitted infections?

The vaccine currently used in the NHS vaccination programme (Gardasil) also protects against two types of HPV that cause about 90% of the cases of genital warts. HPV vaccination does not protect against other infections spread during sex, such as chlamydia, nor will it stop your daughter getting pregnant, so it's still very important that your daughter gets safer sex messages at the appropriate time.

Will being infected with HPV cause cancer in someone who hasn't had the vaccination?

Most women who get infected with HPV do not get cervical cancer. Women usually do not even know they have been infected because they have no symptoms. Nowadays, most women are regularly tested (screened) to see if they have any signs of infection - this is seen as changes to the lining of the cervix that could lead to cancer. These regular tests are called 'smear tests'. The vaccine protects against the two types of virus that cause most cervical cancer but it doesn't protect against all HPV viruses, so:

It will be essential for your daughter to have regular screening once she is old enough

What is the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine stops the body being infected by the two human papillomaviruses that cause over 70% of cervical cancers.

At what age will the first dose of the vaccination be given?

All girls aged 12 to 13 years should receive the first HPV vaccination routinely in year 8 at school. The vaccine will be given in her upper arm by a nurse.

How many doses will be given?

Eligible girls should receive two doses of the vaccine. The second injection should be given anytime between six to 12 months after the first, but it can be given up to 24 months after. Your school will inform you when your daughter will actually have the second dose. It's important that girls have both doses to get the best protection.

My older daughter had three doses of the HPV vaccine, why is my younger daughter only getting two?

Since the HPV vaccination programme started in the UK in 2008, the vaccine has proved to be very effective. Studies conducted since then suggest that two doses of the HPV vaccine will provide excellent, long-lasting protection for young girls.

What if my daughter has not had her first HPV vaccine by the age of 15?

If your daughter has not had any HPV vaccine by the time she is 15 years old she will need three doses to have full protection. This is because the response to two doses in older girls is not quite as good, so to be on the safe side she should have three doses, with the second dose given around a month after the first dose, and a final dose given around six months after the first dose. You should speak to your nurse or doctor about making an appointment as soon as possible.

Will our GP know that our daughter has had the HPV vaccination?

Information about the HPV vaccination will be transferred to your GP surgery so it can be entered on your daughter's health record.

Will there be any side effects?

The most common side effects that have been reported in clinical studies of HPV vaccines include swelling, redness and pain at the site of the injection, and headaches. Other side effects such as raised temperature, sickness, itching, rash, and pain in the injected arm were reported in fewer than one in ten but more than one in 100 people. A full list of potential adverse reactions can be found on the patient information leaflet (PIL).

What about girls who have allergies or other illnesses, can they still have the HPV vaccination?

Yes. Food intolerances, asthma, eczema, hay fever, and allergies generally do not prevent someone from having this vaccine. If you have any concerns about this, speak to your nurse or doctor.

Very rarely, some people have an allergic reaction soon after immunisation. This reaction may be a rash or itching affecting part or all of the body. The nurse will know how to treat this. It is not a reason to withhold further HPV vaccinations.

Even more rarely, people can have a severe reaction, within a few minutes of the injection with breathing difficulties and collapse. This is called an anaphylactic reaction. These are extremely rare and the person giving

the vaccine is trained to deal with vaccine anaphylactic reactions. Individuals recover completely with treatment, usually within a few hours.

What if my daughter is off school on the day of the vaccination?

The nurse will try to arrange for her to be offered the vaccine at another time. If your daughter misses either vaccination you should speak to her nurse about making another appointment. It's important that she completes the full course to get the best protection.

What if she doesn't want to have the vaccination?

She doesn't have to have it, if she doesn't want to. But it is recommended that she does for the reasons given above. Having the vaccination now will protect her for many years. Suggest she speaks to the nurse if she wants more information, on her own, or with you, if she'd prefer.

What if a girl has already been sexually active and has possibly caught the virus?

If a girl has been sexually active, there is a possibility that she may have already caught HPV. However, as it won't be known whether she has been infected, nor which type of the virus she has been infected with, she should still have the vaccine as it may still protect her.

Why aren't boys being vaccinated?

The purpose of this campaign is to protect girls and women against cervical cancer. Obviously, boys do not get cervical cancer. By protecting all girls against the two most common causes of cervical cancer eventually there will be fewer viruses circulating and so the risk for boys of coming into contact with these viruses, and passing them on, will decrease.

How long does the vaccine protection last for?

The HPV vaccine has been used for many years and tens of millions of girls have been vaccinated and all the indications are that high levels of protection last for many years. The duration of protection will continue to be monitored carefully

More information

Visit www.nhs.uk/hpv_where you can download a factsheet that gives more detailed information on the topics covered in this sheet.

A complete list of ingredients for the vaccine is given in the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL):

www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/19033/pil/gardasil and the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC):

www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/19016/SPC/gardasil