

A HEALTHY MOUTH: THE HPV VACCINE CAN HELP PREVENT CANCER

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus. The most dangerous types can cause cancer, including cancer of the tongue, throat and tonsils.

40,000

Approximately 40,000 people were diagnosed with cancer caused by HPV in 2014 in the United States.



This is the same as the maximum capacity at Petco Park, home of the San Diego Padres.

WHO DOES IT AFFECT?



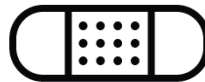
HPV-related cancers affect all genders

PREVENTION



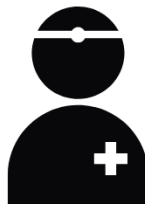
Immunization in patients < 26 years old can prevent some HPV cancers

2 OR 3 DOSES TO COMPLETE SERIES



Once the vaccine series is completed, no booster is needed to remain protected

ORAL HEALTH



Dental providers encourage HPV immunization to prevent oral cancer and promote oral health

HPV FACTS

- HPV is so common that nearly all men and women are infected at some point in their lives
- Most people don't realize they are infected
- 79 million Americans are currently infected with some type of HPV
- HPV infection can be carried and spread without a sign or symptom.
- 14 million people in the United States become infected each year
- Some types of HPV can cause cancers that affect the mouth, throat, head and neck

- Cancer-causing HPV infection can be prevented
- The HPV vaccine is a "cancer prevention vaccine" and protects against most of the cancers caused by HPV infection
- The HPV vaccine is given as a series of shots and recommended for both girls and boys
- The HPV shot should be given at the same time as all preteen vaccines at 11 to 12 years of age

HPV PREVENTION

FAQs

Q: What are side effects of the vaccination? Is it safe?

A: Studies have not shown any serious safety concerns. Most side effects are mild and may include a sore arm, pain at the site of the shot, fever, dizziness and nausea.

Q: I only have boys. This vaccine is only for girls, right?

A: The vaccine is safe and recommended for boys and girls. Risks of types of cancer can vary by gender and anyone can be affected by the cancers caused by HPV infections.

Q: I'd prefer to wait until my child is older before getting the HPV vaccine. Why does age matter?

A: The vaccine works best when given at a younger age, because preteens create more antibodies to the vaccine than those who get it in their late teens or older.

Q: What if my teen did not get the HPV vaccine? When is it too late to get?

A: If the shot is not given at age 11 to 12, it is not too late. It is still recommended for males and females up to age 26.

Q: I forgot to bring my child in for their second/third dose - do I have to start over?

A: Even if it has been months or years since the last shot, you can still complete the HPV immunization series without "starting over".

Q: Does the vaccine protection fade over time?

A: Based on the best available data at this time, the vaccine does not lose effectiveness and does not require a booster later in life.

Q: Why is my dental health practitioner promoting the HPV vaccine?

A: While your dental health practitioner is not administering the vaccine, they are part of the oral health team and that includes preventing, screening for and providing counseling about oral diseases including oral cancer.

Q: Where can I get the HPV vaccine?

A: HPV vaccines are available at doctors' offices, community clinics, and many retail pharmacies. People without medical insurance can get vaccinated at one of the seven County locations. (go to: bit.ly/sdizclinics); or call 2-1-1 for a location nearest you.

Regular dental check-ups that include an exam of the entire head and neck can help detect oral cancer early.