

A HEALTHY MOUTH: GUIDING PATIENTS TOWARDS CANCER PREVENTION

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus. The most dangerous types can cause some oropharyngeal cancers.

Approximately 40,000 people were diagnosed with HPV-related cancer in 2014 in the United States

Each person represents approximately 500 people affected by HPV-related cancer

Colored figures represent oropharyngeal cancers (42%)



AFFECTED POPULATIONS

HPV-related cancers affect all genders



PREVENTION

Proper immunization can prevent cancer caused by HPV



DENTAL PRACTITIONERS

Encourage HPV immunization to prevent cancer



Chair-side Suggestions

- Ask about immunizations during medical history updates
- Ask early and continue asking (immunizations are effective as early as 9 years old and as late as 26 years old)
- Focus on promoting cancer prevention - the conversation may deviate but focus on the facts and what you know

KNOW THE FACTS

HPV AND CANCER TRENDS

- In the U.S., approximately 23,700 women and 17,300 men were diagnosed with cancer caused by an HPV infection in 2014
- In the U.S., 14,000 men were diagnosed with oropharyngeal cancer caused by HPV in 2014
- It is projected that by 2020, HPV-related oral cancers will outpace non-HPV related oral cancers
- HPV immunization rates have been poor. As of 2014, only 57.3% of females and 34.6% of males had completed more than one dose of HPV vaccination
- Only 27% of physicians strongly recommend HPV vaccination and 39% are hesitant to recommend it for boys - **dentists and dental personnel can fill the information void!**



- HPV vaccines protect against several HPV types which are attributed to 81% of HPV-related cancers
- HPV vaccination is part of routine immunization schedules (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-CDC)
- Completion of immunization requires a two-dose or three-dose series to be effective; the number of doses depends on the patient's age at their initial dose
- Vaccination is recommended for 11-12 year olds (boys and girls) but can be administered as early as 9 years old or as late as 26 years old in some cases
- HPV vaccination is covered by all insurances
- HPV vaccines are available at doctors' offices, community clinics, and many retail pharmacies
- For children under 18 years old who are uninsured or Medicaid-eligible, Vaccines for Children (VFC) provides vaccines at no cost (www.cdc.gov/Features/VFCprogram). 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.

HPV PREVENTION



ROLE OF THE PRACTITIONER

- Oral cancer prevention, screening, referral and disease management are standards of care in dentistry
- Promote oral cancer prevention by discussing HPV immunization
- Remind patients to complete two-dose and three-dose series to provide maximum efficacy
- Educate and encourage patients to get themselves and/or their children vaccinated
- Patients and their parents may have questions; direct patients to resources (www.cdc.gov/hpv/).