

More about cervical cancer and screening

- In the UK there are about 2,800 cases of cervical cancer per year and 1,100 deaths
- Cervical screening (the smear test) picks up abnormal cell changes in the cervix that can lead to cervical cancer if left untreated
- Abnormal cell changes are easily treated if caught early
- Cervical screening is offered to women age:
25-64 years in England & Northern Ireland
20-60 years in Scotland
20-64 years in Wales

Where is the best place to find out more?

- Cancer Research UK
www.cancerhelp.org.uk
- Immunisation Information (NHS)
www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Vaccines/HPV
- Cervical Screening (NHS)
www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/cervical
- Jo's Trust
www.jotrust.co.uk
- Or talk to your GP, Practice Nurse or School Nurse



For more information:
www.rsph.org

The Royal Society for the Promotion of Health
38A St George's Drive
London SW1V 4BH

tel: 020 7630 0121
email: hpvinfo@rsph.org

Registered charity number: 215520
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HPV and Cervical Cancer



THE BASICS

Cervical cancer and human papillomavirus (HPV)

- Almost all cases of cervical cancer are associated with HPV (human papillomavirus) infection
- HPV is a virus that can infect the cells of the cervix
- The types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer do not have any symptoms
- Other types of HPV can cause genital warts

Hope for the future - HPV vaccines

- Vaccines that prevent HPV infection are now available
- The vaccines protect against 70% of cervical cancers and some vaccines will also protect against genital warts
- The vaccines are very effective
- The vaccines are most effective if given to girls before they become sexually active
- The vaccines are licensed for women up to 26 years. The government will make them freely available to girls from 12 years old up to 18 years
- It will still be important for women to attend cervical screening when invited

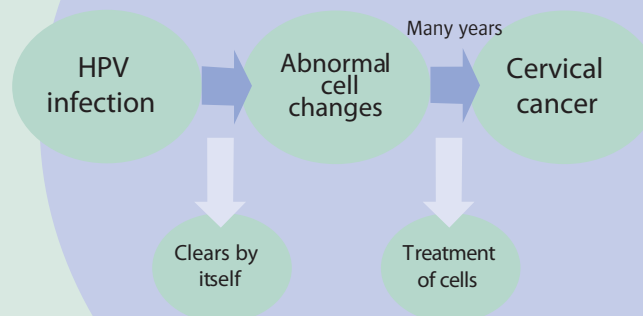
More about HPV

How common is HPV?

- About 8 out of 10 women will get HPV at some point in their lives

How do you get HPV?

- HPV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- HPV is transmitted through genital skin-to-skin contact (not necessarily sexual intercourse)
- Condoms give partial protection against HPV
- Men can carry the HPV virus
- In most cases, the types of HPV that cause cervical cancer do not have harmful health effects for men
- The virus can become active after a long period of being inactive and can then cause abnormal cell changes which might eventually turn into cancer



What does HPV do and can it be treated?

- In 9 out of 10 women the immune system clears HPV
- For some women, HPV will not clear by itself
- At present there is no direct treatment for HPV itself, but the abnormal cells that the virus causes can be removed very easily to prevent cancer developing
- If left untreated, persistent HPV probably takes 10-20 years to cause cervical cancer
- Cervical cancer is more likely to develop in women who smoke



The vaccine will be given to girls to prevent HPV infection, protecting against cervical cancer