

HPV AND CANCER:

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Cervical cancer is by far the most common HPV-related disease. Nearly all cases of cervical cancer can be attributed to HPV infection.

Although most HPV infections clear up on their own and most pre-cancerous lesions resolve spontaneously, there is a risk for all women that HPV infection may become chronic and pre-cancerous lesions progress to invasive cervical cancer.

95%

OF CERVICAL CANCERS ARE CAUSED BY HPV

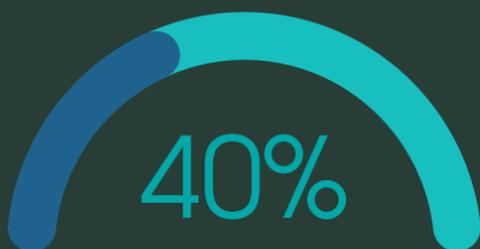


"Women living with HPV are 6 times more likely to develop cervical cancer compared to women without HPV."



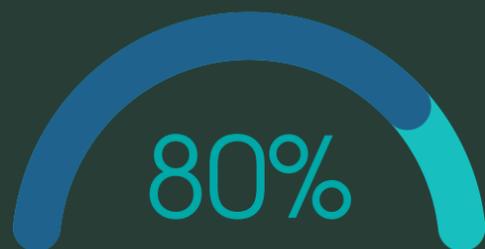
Cervical cancer can be found early and even prevented with routine screening tests. The Pap test looks for changes in cervical cells caused by HPV infection. The HPV test looks for the infection itself.

Cervical cancer is preventable with vaccines and regular screening tests. More than half of the people in the United States who get cervical cancer have never had or rarely had screening tests.



MEN AND WOMEN WILL HAVE COMPLICATIONS FROM HPV

You can get HPV by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has the virus. It most commonly spreads during anal or vaginal sex. It spreads through close skin-to-skin touching during sex. HPV can spread even when a person with the infection has no signs or symptoms.



SEXUALLY ACTIVE ADULTS WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH HPV AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIFE

If you are sexually active, you can get HPV even if you have had sex with only one person. Symptoms can appear years after you have sex with someone who has the infection. This makes it hard to know when you first got



HPV is the causal agent of:

- 70% of oropharyngeal cancers (head & neck)
- 91% of anal cancers
- 91% of cervical cancers
- 63% of penile cancers
- 75% of vaginal cancers
- 70% of vulva cancers

Source: CDC

For those unfortunate, HPV lies dormant in their bodies and resurfaces as an HPV-related cancer decades later. HPV can be classified as either low-risk or high-risk. Low-risk strains of HPV may manifest as genital warts. High-risk strains may turn into cancer. Researchers believe that it can take from 10 to 20 years, or even longer for a new infection with high-risk HPV to develop into cancer.

Make a donation today: www.gynca.org

