

HPV: Cancer Causer and Vaccination to the Children against HPV

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Recently, the Human papillomavirus (HPV), and certain cancers caused by them have been studied often. These studies are the reason for reigniting the debate, whether it is appropriate to vaccinate children against virus. Both girls and boys be vaccinated against HPV are recommended by the American College of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In these studies, the HPV-related head and neck cancer cases are rising gradually. HPV is the cause of many cancers, so it is really important to support the efforts to vaccinate.

HPV has more than 100 strains that include HPV-16 and 18, which are very aggressive, sexually transmitted and high risk have been linked to several types of cervical and neck cancers. HPV infection is the major cause of oropharyngeal cancer, which affects the base of the tongue, the tonsils, and the walls of the pharynx. This year more than 10000 people in US were diagnosed with oropharyngeal cancer, among them 3 out of 4 are male and they are young and middle aged.

In early 20th century, patients who were suffered from head and neck cancer were smokers or heavy drinkers, but now only 20% of the people are smokers or drinkers and the remaining 80% have an oropharynx cancer caused by an HPV infection. The CDC recommends vaccinating girls and boys at ages 11 or 12 because HPV is mainly transmitted through sexual contact. The vaccine is given in three doses several months apart.

The US Food and Drug Administration approved the use of the vaccine, Gardasil in 2006 for girls aged between 9 and 26. The vaccine protects against four strains of HPV, including HPV-6 and-11, as well as the high risk strains HPV-16 and 18, which causes oropharyngeal, cervical, anal, and vaginal cancers. The CDC followed suit recommending the three dose vaccine become a routine immunization for girls.

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