



## You can protect your daughter from cancer of the cervix.

It is important to learn about HPV and cancer of the cervix.

Cancer of the cervix is one of the most common cancers occurring in women in India.

Women in India die needlessly from cancer of the cervix because they don't get regular Pap tests and they don't know about HPV. You can protect your daughter. The HPV vaccine can reduce her chances of getting cancer of the cervix. Make sure that she gets the HPV vaccine.

## Have questions? Need more information?

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India Project

# Protecting Our Daughters

What parents should know about HPV, cancer of the cervix, and the HPV vaccine



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[cancer.org](http://cancer.org)

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## What is HPV?

HPV (short for human papilloma virus) is a virus spread by sexual contact. It is very common. Without the vaccine, most people who have sex will have HPV at some time in their life.

There are many types of HPV:

- Most of the time, HPV goes away and causes no health problems.
- Sometimes, HPV can remain and cause changes in a woman's cervix (the lower part of the uterus). These changes can be found with a Pap test. If they are not found in time, they could lead to cancer.
- Other times, HPV causes warts (small cauliflower-like growths) around the genital area (vagina, penis, or anus).

## How do people get HPV?

HPV is spread during close sexual contact. It can be spread by contact with the vagina, penis, and anus.

## What does HPV have to do with cervical cancer?

Two types of HPV cause most cancers of the cervix. Other types of HPV cause other genital problems and some cervix cancers.

## Is there a vaccine to prevent HPV?

Yes, a vaccine is now available. It protects against the two types of HPV that cause most cancers of the cervix.

## Is the HPV vaccine safe?

Yes. All vaccines are tested for safety. The HPV vaccine was tested in girls and young women all around the world. The vaccine's safety continues to be watched.

## Who should be vaccinated and when?

In India, girls should start being vaccinated at 9 years of age, and the vaccine can be given to women up to age 26. The vaccine is a series of 3 injections (shots).



You may wonder why your child should have the HPV vaccine at such a young age. It is important to make sure your daughter gets the entire series of vaccine shots before she starts to have sex. That will help protect her from getting the main types of HPV that cause cancer of the cervix.

## Will girls who have had the HPV vaccine still need Pap tests?

Yes. Girls who have gotten the HPV vaccine still need Pap tests. The vaccine does not protect against all types of HPV that can cause cancer of the cervix. Women who have not had the vaccine also need to have regular Pap tests.

## Do what you can now to protect your daughter's future.

- Make sure she gets the HPV vaccine.
- Teach her about the importance of getting Pap tests.
- Make sure she knows about all the ways she can keep herself safe as she grows up, such as having a monogamous lifestyle.