

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) & OROPHARYNGEAL CANCER

What every **patient** should know

KEY FACTS



HPV is common: most people are exposed during their lifetime; most HPVs do not cause cancer



Two HPV types have been linked to **throat cancers**, even in people who do not smoke or drink alcohol



HPV-associated throat cancers may occur **without symptoms**



Dentists can help detect signs of cancer and guide patients toward appropriate care

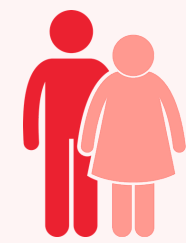


HPV vaccination can prevent **up to 90%** of HPV-associated cancers

KEY STATISTICS

+22%

HPV-associated non-cervical cancers have **increased by 22% since 2018**



Men are at greater risk than women to develop HPV-associated throat cancer



Most patients never receive HPV information from their dental provider

WHEN SHOULD VACCINATION HAPPEN?

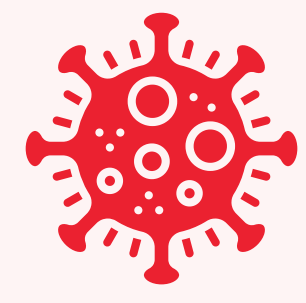


Recommended for **children at age 9–12 years**

Catch-up vaccination recommended **up to age 26 years**

Vaccination is most effective **before exposure to HPV**

HOW IS HPV TRANSMITTED?



High risk oral HPV is a **sexually transmitted** infection, **associated with oral sex**



HPV-associated throat cancers can **develop many years after exposure** to HPV

ARE VACCINES SAFE & EFFECTIVE?



HPV vaccines have been widely used internationally



Long-term studies show the HPV vaccine is safe, effective, and gives long-lasting protection against HPV-associated cancers

WHAT PATIENTS CAN DO

ASK YOUR DENTIST

- ✓ **About HPV** and HPV-associated throat cancers
- ✓ **Whether they routinely screen** for signs of oral cancer during examinations
- ✓ **Whether HPV vaccination is recommended** for you or your children



AVOID RISK FACTORS

- ✗ Avoid tobacco use
- ✗ Limit alcohol consumption
- ✗ Avoid betel quid

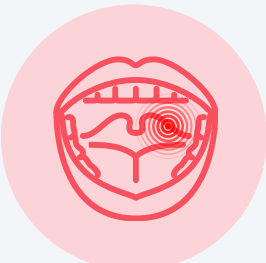


ARRANGE A DENTAL CHECK-UP

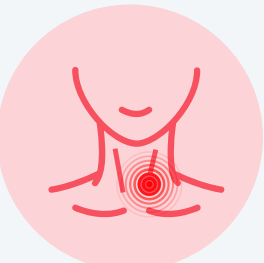
- ✓ Arrange regular dental check-ups, **even if you have no symptoms**
- ✓ Tell your dentist about any **persistent symptoms** such as:



Sore throat or voice changes



Persistent sores or numbness



Lump in the neck or throat



Pain while swallowing

