


HPV AT A GLANCE

The most important facts you should know.

An initiative of



Englische Version



WHAT IS HPV?

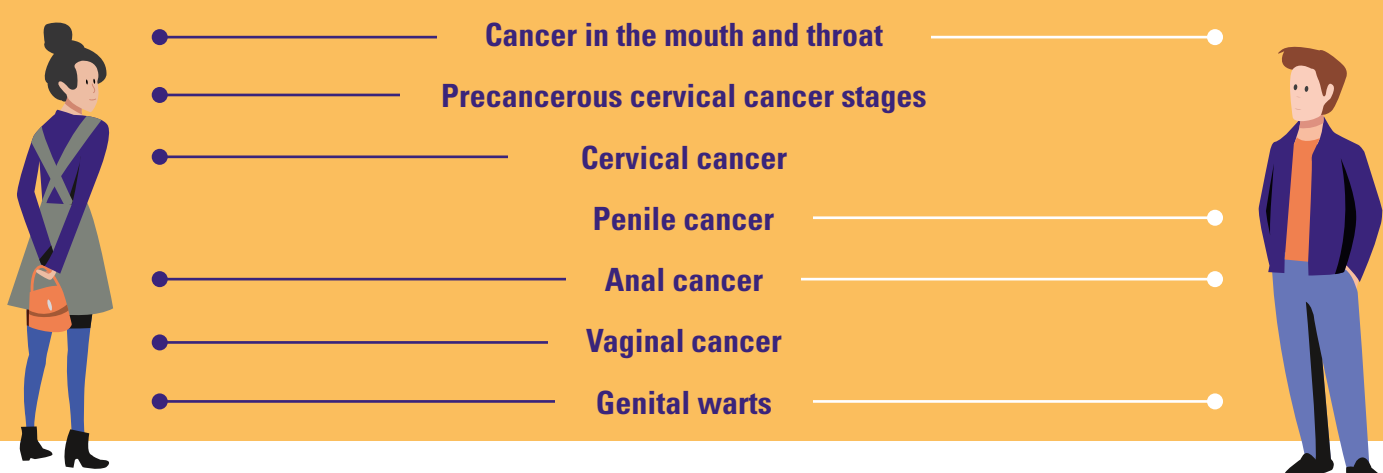
About 85 to 90% of all people become infected with human papillomavirus (HPV) during their lifetime. An HPV infection often goes unnoticed at first, as it is initially symptom-free. Most often, the infection heals without any health problems. Only when the HPV infection lasts for a longer time can it result in changes to cells in the mucous membranes or the skin. In some people, these can also develop into certain types of cancer and precancerous stages in the genital area, and to cancer in the mouth and throat, or into genital warts.

1 HOW CAN YOU GET INFECTED?

Human papillomaviruses are transmitted from human to human by direct contact. The viruses can enter the body through the smallest injuries to the skin or mucous membrane, but especially through intimate contact. Even condoms cannot provide reliable protection from an HPV infection.

2 WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF AN HPV INFECTION DOESN'T HEAL ON ITS OWN?

If the infection doesn't heal on its own, the following HPV diseases can occur, for example:



- Cancer in the mouth and throat
- Precancerous cervical cancer stages
- Cervical cancer
- Penile cancer
- Anal cancer
- Vaginal cancer
- Genital warts

3 WHAT ARE GENITAL WARTS, ACTUALLY?

Genital warts are skin growths in the genital area that can occur in both men and women. They are benign, but are still very uncomfortable and can also lead to severe psychosocial stress.

SYMPTOMS

The skin growths are usually just a few millimeters high and appear either in isolation or in groups (with a cauliflower-like appearance). Possible symptoms: itching and mild bleeding, and in women also increased secretion discharge.

Common:



DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

How is an illness determined and what happens then?

- Genital warts can usually be detected with the naked eye.
- If necessary, the doctor may take a small tissue sample and have it examined under the microscope.
- The treatment of genital warts can take a long time and can be very painful.
- Possible therapies include, for example, the local application of salves, surgical removal, freezing therapy, or removal with a laser.
- The HPV infection itself cannot be treated.

VACCINATION

4 WHY SHOULD VACCINATION ALREADY BE DONE AT 9 YEARS OF AGE?

The Standing Committee on Immunization (STIKO) recommends an early HPV vaccination for boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14. The vaccination should be performed before a possible infection with HPV. The younger the vaccinated person is, the better the immune system responds to the vaccination.

5 HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF FROM HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)?

One of the most important precautionary measures is vaccination. HPV vaccination can prevent infection with certain types of HPV and certain associated diseases such as cervical cancer, vaginal cancer, and anal cancer.

STIKO recommends:

STIKO recommendation HPV vaccination

For all girls and boys 9–14 years of age.

Number of vaccination doses
required:



Making up for missed HPV vaccinations

After the 15th birthday, but no later than
the 18th birthday.

Number of vaccination doses
required:



6 IS HPV VACCINATION COVERED BY HEALTH INSURANCE?

For children and adolescents between the ages of 9 and 17, the HPV vaccination is covered by public health insurance and usually also by private health insurance.

Some health insurers have also extended their benefits to cover vaccination costs for young women and men over the age of 18.

7 CAN AND SHOULD THE HPV VACCINATION ALSO BE GIVEN AFTER THE FIRST SEXUAL CONTACT?

Unvaccinated girls and boys should still be vaccinated against HPV even after their first sexual contact.

Even if they are already suffering from a lasting HPV infection with certain types of HPV, the vaccination can still provide protection from the other HPV types contained in the vaccine.

The earlier the vaccination is made up, the better.



Talk to your doctor about HPV and
learn more about the topic at:

www.entschiedengegenkrebs.de