

PROCEDURE OF THE HPV VACCINATION

The HPV vaccination consists of several individual vaccinations. Girls and boys up to 14 years of age receive the HPV vaccination in two individual vaccinations at least five months apart. Three individual vaccinations are necessary from the age of 15 or if the vaccination interval is too short. The currently available vaccines are usually inoculated into the muscles of the upper arm. For the complete vaccination protection, it is important to also receive all scheduled doses of a vaccine!



THE VACCINATION IS FREE OF CHARGE UP TO AGE 17

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.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE HPV VACCINATION

The most common side effects observed are headaches and skin reactions at the injection site, which many people also experience from other vaccinations. Less common are nausea, dizziness, fever and fatigue. Can the vaccination itself cause an HPV infection? No. This is because the vaccination is not carried out with the virus itself, but with empty, virus-like envelopes that simulate a „real“ virus for the body's own defenses.



Talk to the doctor or health care professional of your child and learn more about the topic on:

entschiedengegenkrebs.de/flyer

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube at: [entschiedengegenkrebs](https://entschiedengegenkrebs.de)



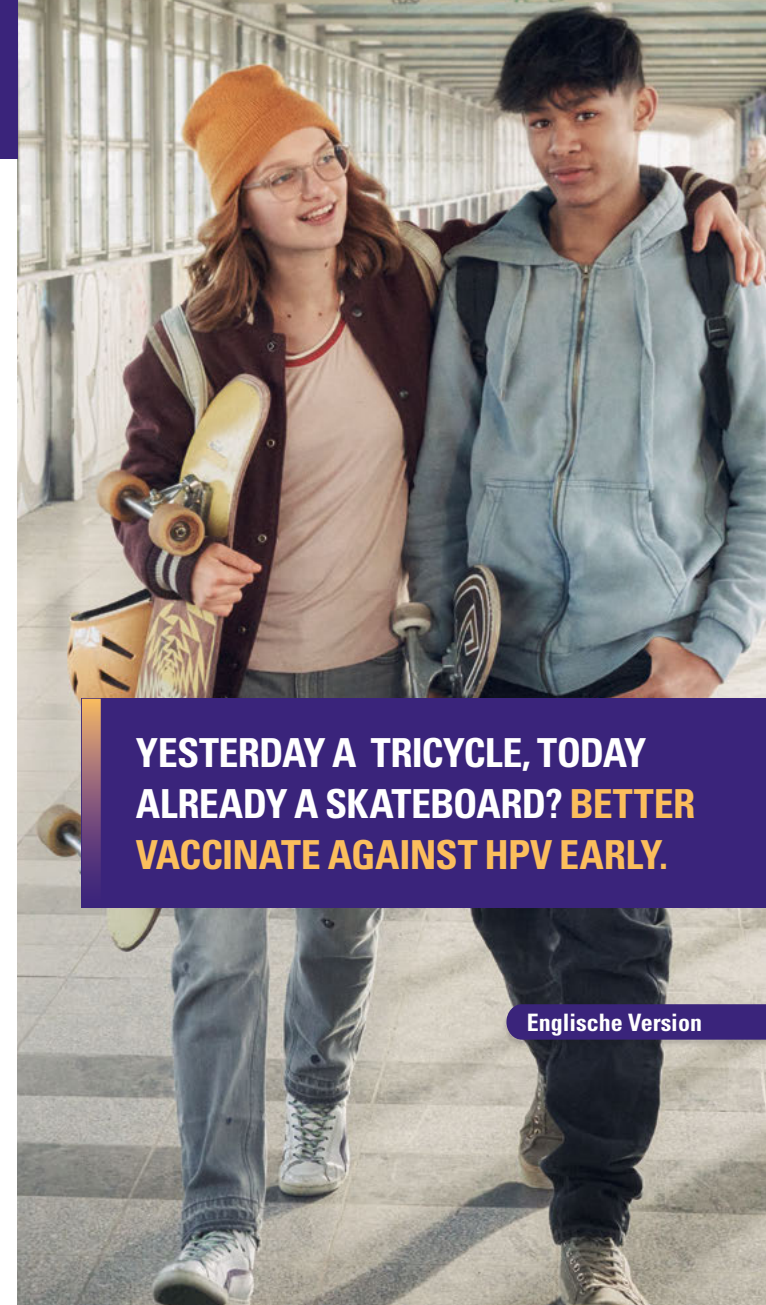
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MSD Infocenter
Tel. 0800 673 673 673
Fax 0800 673 673 329
E-Mail infocenter@msd.de

**ENTSCHEIDEN.
Gegen Krebs.**
Human papillomavirus viruses
can cause certain types of cancers



**YESTERDAY A TRICYCLE, TODAY
ALREADY A SKATEBOARD? BETTER
VACCINATE AGAINST HPV EARLY.**

Englische Version

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YESTERDAY STILL A CHILD, TODAY ALMOST AN ADULT, TOMORROW MAYBE CANCER?

Approximately 7,850 people in Germany develop cancer each year that is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). Early HPV vaccination, recommended by the STIKO for boys and girls, can prevent certain HPV-related cancers. In this way, you can provide your children with the best possible protection on their way to adulthood from the age of 9.

We want to provide parents with a quick and accurate overview of HPV and its associated potential for disease. In this way, you'll also be able to give your children the best possible start in life in terms of health.

WHAT IS HPV? AND HOW DO YOU GET INFECTED WITH IT?

HPV stands for **human papillomavirus**. 85% to 90% of all people become infected with it during their lifetime. The viruses are transmitted from person to person via direct contact. They can enter the body through the smallest injuries to the skin or mucous membrane, but especially through intimate contact. Data from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) show that 35% of all women between the ages of 20 and 25 are infected with a high-risk type HPV.

COURSE AND POSSIBLE SECONDARY DISEASES OF HPV INFECTION

An HPV infection often goes unnoticed, as it is usually symptom-free. Often, an infection heals within about a year without health problems. Only if the HPV infection persists for a longer period of time can cell changes on the skin or mucous membranes be the result. These cell changes can develop into certain types of cancer and precancerous lesions in the genital area. These include, for example, cervical and vaginal cancer in women and penile cancer in men. Anal cancer and cancer of the mouth and throat affect both women and men. The formation of genital warts is also a typical possible consequence of HPV infection.

HOW CAN HPV INFECTION BE PREVENTED?

One of the most important preventive measures is the HPV vaccination. The Standing Commission on Vaccination (STIKO) at the Robert Koch Institute recommends the HPV vaccination for boys and girls aged 9 to 17. Vaccination should be given between the ages of 9 and 14, if possible, but no later than the age of 17 (by the day before the 18th birthday).

VACCINATING FROM THE AGE OF 9 – WHY?

The STIKO recommends an early HPV vaccination for boys and girls. The HPV vaccination can be given from the age of 9. Because ideally, the vaccination should be performed before a possible infection with HPV. In addition, the younger the vaccinated person is, the better the immune system responds to the vaccination. The earlier the vaccination is given, the greater the benefit.

RECOMMENDED FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS – THE HPV VACCINATION

STIKO has been recommending vaccination against HPV for girls since 2007 and for boys since 2018. Diseases possibly caused by HP viruses can affect both sexes. For this reason it is important to get the vaccination early. The HPV vaccines recommended for prevention are the same for boys and girls. As a rule, all physicians vaccinate, both in pediatrics, general medicine, but also in gynecology and urology.



WHAT SECONDARY DISEASES CAN THE HPV VACCINATION PREVENT?

Depending on the vaccine used, HPV vaccination is used to prevent certain diseases caused by certain HPV types, such as precancerous lesions and cancer of the cervix, labia, vagina, anus, and genital warts.

INTERNATIONAL STANDING

High-level international organizations also emphasize the relevance of the HPV vaccination. Accordingly, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends the introduction of the HPV vaccine in every country in the world and, like the EU Commission, calls for full vaccination of 90% of all girls up to the age of 15 by 2030 in order to one day eradicate cervical cancer. The European Cancer Organization (ECCO) has a similar goal and aims to eliminate HPV-related cancer in its entirety.

SAFETY OF THE VACCINES

HPV vaccines currently on the market are generally considered well tolerated. The safety profile of HPV vaccines is continuously monitored by national and international health authorities. More than 500 million doses have now been shipped worldwide.

EXPERIENCE FROM ABROAD

In other European countries such as Italy, Austria or Switzerland, HPV vaccination has been recommended for both sexes – boys and girls – for some time. Studies from Great Britain, Denmark or Australia show that HPV vaccination has reduced the number of new infections and HPV-related tissue changes in the genital area. A Swedish study showed that the risk of cervical cancer was 88% lower in women younger than 17 years of age when they received HPV vaccination than in women who did not.