

HPV vaccination procedure

HPV vaccination consists of several individual vaccinations. Girls and boys from 9 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 vaccines currently available are usually injected into the muscles of the upper arm. For 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, 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 experience from other vaccinations. Rarer side effects are nausea, dizziness, fever and exhaustion. Can the vaccination itself cause HPV infection? No. This is because 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 your child's doctor and find out more on this topic at:
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Publisher:
MSD Sharp & Dohme GmbH
Levelingstr. 4a | 81673 Munich

MSD Infocenter
Tel. 0800 673 673 67, Fax 0800 673 673 329
Email infocenter@msd.de



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ENTSCHIEDEN.
Gegen Krebs.
Humane Papillomviren können
bestimmte Krebsarten auslösen

HPV
Information
for Parents



AT 9, YOUR CHILD CAN DO
MANY THINGS. BUT FOR
CANCER PREVENTION
THEY NEED YOU.

Englische Version

Early HPV vaccination can offer the **best possible protection** against certain HPV-related cancers.

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. You can already protect your child in the best possible way on their path to adulthood starting at the age of 9. We want to give parents a quick and accurate overview of HPV and the related 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 with infected skin or mucosa in the genital area. They can enter the body through the smallest injuries to the skin or mucous membrane and lead to an infection. 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.

Progression and possible secondary diseases of HPV infection

HPV infection often goes unnoticed as it is usually symptom-free. Most of the time, 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?

The HPV vaccination is one of the most important preventive measures enabling the prevention of certain HPV-related diseases. The Standing Commission on Vaccination (STIKO) at the Robert Koch Institute recommends HPV vaccination for boys and girls aged 9 to 17. Vaccination should ideally be given between the ages of 9 and 14, 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 early HPV vaccination for boys and girls. 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 vaccination is given, the greater the benefit.

Recommended for the past 17 years – the HPV vaccination

The STIKO has recommended 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, early prevention through vaccination is important. The HPV vaccines used for prevention are the same for boys and girls. As a rule, all physicians vaccinate, both in pediatrics and general medicine, but also in gynecology and urology.



Which secondary diseases can the HPV vaccination prevent?

Depending on the vaccine used, HPV vaccination is used to prevent certain diseases caused by certain types of HPV, 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 HPV vaccination. Accordingly, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends its introduction 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. In addition, the EU has set the goal of increasing vaccination rates in boys. Germany has also committed to the WHO and EU goals.

Safety of the vaccines

HPV vaccines currently on the market are generally considered to be well tolerated. The safety profile of HPV vaccines is continuously monitored by national and international health authorities. More than 734 million doses have now been delivered 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.