



جامعة الإمام عبد الرحمن بن فيصل  
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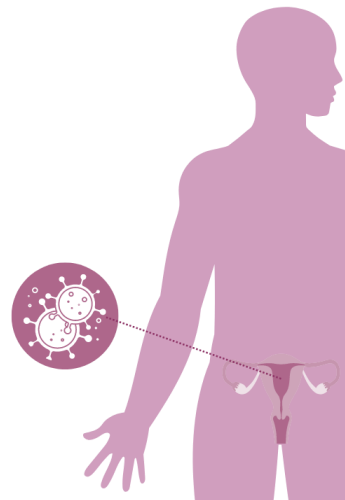
# HPV Vaccine



## What are human papillomaviruses?

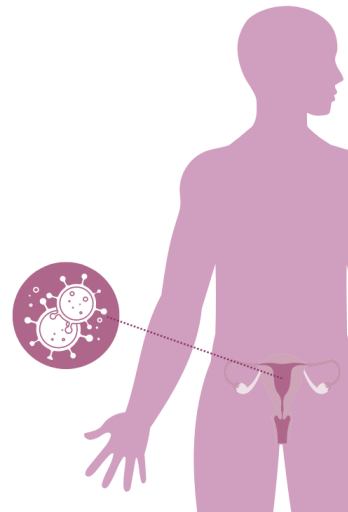
Human papillomaviruses HPV is a virus that can cause skin warts, genital warts, and some types of cancer.

There are numerous HPV strains. Various types can bring distinct health complications.



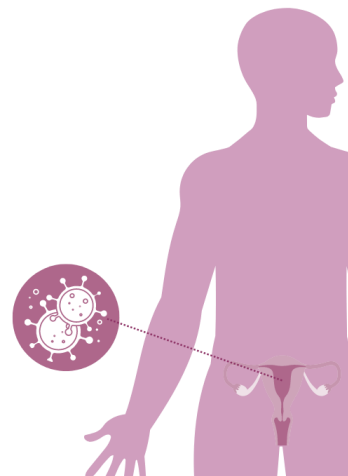
## How do individuals become infected with HPV?

- Individuals can become infected with HPV if their mouth or genitalia come into contact with an infected person's genitalia. This occurs primarily through oral, vaginal, and anal intercourse.
- HPV can also be transmitted through close genital-to-genital contact, even in the absence of sexual interaction.
- It is not transmitted by touching surfaces. Such as: toilet seat.



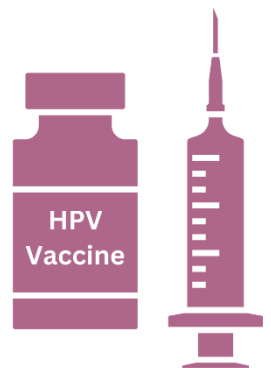
## What symptoms are associated with an HPV infection?

The majority of HPV patients **do not experience significant symptoms or health problems**. In a few of years, the HPV infection typically resolves on its own. Yet, in other instances, the infection may persist longer and cause cancer and other disorders.



# What is the vaccine against human papillomavirus (HPV)?

It is a vaccination that **protects against human papillomavirus infection**, and vaccines prepare the body to combat germs when they are encountered.



## Why should I get vaccinated against HPV?

The vaccine can protect against contracting an HPV infection. There are numerous varieties of HPV, each of which might cause unique complications. Some of these issues may be severe:

A genital HPV infection can cause cancer of the cervix, vagina, and penis. Other HPV strains can cause genital warts.

An anogenital, oral, or pharyngeal HPV infection can develop cancer in these sites.

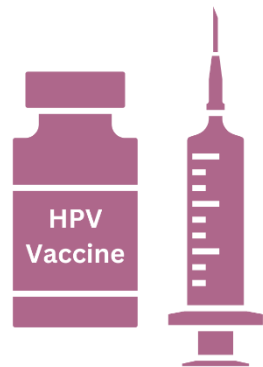
Most individuals with an HPV infection never develop cancer. Yet, it is difficult to predict who would get cancer following an HPV infection. The HPV vaccine is an effective method for preventing infection in the first place.

## At what age is the HPV vaccine administered?

Most physicians recommend receiving the HPV vaccine **between 11 and 12 years of age**. Nonetheless, persons can receive the vaccine at any age **between 9 and 26**.

## Should a pregnant woman receive the HPV vaccine?

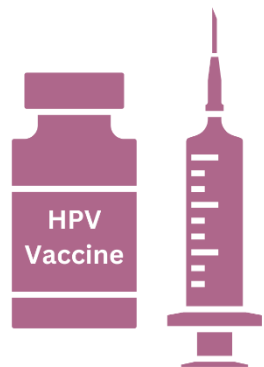
The vaccine **should not be administered** to pregnant women.



## Does the vaccine treat a pre-existing HPV infection?

The HPV vaccine is most effective when administered prior to infection. Existing HPV infections **cannot be cured by the HPV vaccination**. So, it is best to have the HPV vaccine before your first sexual encounter.

If you have already had sexual relations, consult your doctor or nurse. They may still recommend that you have the HPV vaccine, as it may still be beneficial.





# What side effects may be caused by the HPV vaccine?



Minor symptoms such as redness, swelling, or pain at the injection site.



It might cause fainting, although this is uncommon.



You may have heard claims that the HPV vaccine can cause brain or nerve disorders. Studies have revealed this to be false.

## Does the HPV vaccine protect against other sexually transmitted diseases?

No. The HPV vaccine does not prevent people from contracting or transmitting other sexually transmitted diseases. Hence, it is advised to use a condom.

## Do I need a cervical cancer screening if I receive the vaccine?

Yes. Pap tests are advised beginning around age 21.



## How may an HPV-infected individual be diagnosed?

Frequent **Pap tests** can aid in the detection of abnormal cells and the monitoring of any odd changes that could indicate cervical cancer.



## How exactly does HPV cause cervical cancer?

The majority of HPV-positive cases resolve on their own within one to two years. In some instances, the infection may become chronic and progress to cervical cancer.

In women with a healthy immune system, it could take 15 to 20 years for cervical alterations that lead to cancer to develop. As for women with compromised immunity, it may take between 5 and 10 years for changes to occur.

Reference:

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/HealthAwareness/EducationalContent/Diseases/Infectious/Pages/014.aspx>

<https://www-uptodate-com.library.iau.edu.sa/contents/human-papillomavirus-hpv-vaccine-the-basics>

[https://www.uptodate.com/contents/human-papillomavirus-hpv-the-basics?source=mostViewed\\_widget](https://www.uptodate.com/contents/human-papillomavirus-hpv-the-basics?source=mostViewed_widget)

All illustrations from canva.com

Reviewed By:

The content of this booklet has been reviewed by obstetrics and gynecology consultants at King Fahd University Hospital.

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**Health Awareness Unit**

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