

2018

# HPV vaccine

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## Recommended Citation

vivas, Alejandra, "HPV vaccine" (2018). *Family Medicine Clerkship Student Projects*. 384.  
<https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/fmclerk/384>

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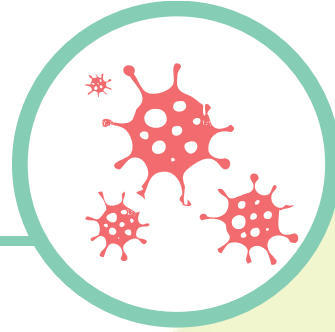
The University  
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LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



# HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS

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JULY 2018



HPV causes 98% of cervical cancer but it can also cause anal, vaginal, throat and mouth cancer besides genital warts.

Although there has been a lot of strategies to incentivize parents to vaccinate their kids against HPV infection, there are still a lot of miss conceptions, myths and knowledge gaps regarding this topic.

Some of the most common myths around the topic are:

- HPV always clears on its own, it wont really cause any big damage
- HPV only affects girls
- There is no rush to vaccinate pre-teens, they are too young to get the vaccine.

# STATISTICS

Talking to the Clinton county public health nurse, NAME, one of the biggest problems involving HPV vaccination is data collection, since pediatricians and other providers are not required to report when they give the vaccine unlike other medications they provide.

The CDC reports that:

Each year there are 14 Million new cases of HPV in the US. 50% of these cases are people between 15 to 24

This means every day around 19000 teens and young adults acquire the HPV virus. This is about the size of all of Plattsburgh's population (the project implementation site)

In the U.S, about 12,000 women get cervical cancer every year, and about 4,000 women die from it.

Every year there are 6300 new cases of anal cancer and 4500 new cases of vaginal cancer

Every hour 40 new cases of genital warts occur in the US. Even after treated in 25% of the cases the warts will appear again.

**There is no treatment to get rid of HPV once you have it.**

# INTERVIEWS

In order to attain information regarding HPV vaccination pertaining to the city of Plattsburgh, I interviewed a local pediatrician, a pediatrics office manager and two head nurses at the public health department at Clinton county, New York. From them I learned the following:

One of the biggest issues regarding HPV vaccine is getting the kids to get the two or three shots necessary for immunity. Many of them start the vaccine but might not complete the necessary doses, specially if they start as teenagers and are not in sports, because they are lest likely to come for a well child visit.

Many parents think that the vaccine will make their child promiscuous or believe that their child will not engage in sexual behavior latter on (which will prevent them from having the virus) if they are warned about the consequences.

When the pediatrician advices to get the vaccine at age 11, a lot of parents believe is too soon to have the vaccine and that it won't protect the kids for a long period of time.

Some parents still believe that HPV vaccine is only for girls and that their boys will not be affected by the virus if they get infected. They do not know that cervical cancer is one of the cancers that HPV causes, and that throat and mouth cancers are currently on the rise affecting more people every day.

# INTERVENTION

- A pamphlet targeted to inform parents about HPV, HPV vaccination and designed to clarify misconceptions about this topic was generated.
- A medical student attended the pediatric office at ADRESS and asked parents before they entered to their doctor's appointment if they planned on vaccinating their kids against Human papilloma virus or HPV.
- If the parents answered no or what is that? The medical student would give them the pamphlet with the information. After reading the pamphlet the medical student asked: Will you talk to your doctor about vaccinating your kids against HPV today?
- If they answered no we would ask why?
- The responses were recorded by the medical student.

# RESPONSE

## Question 1:

Are you planning on vaccinating your kids against Human papilloma virus or HPV?

Answers

- a) yes or "they already got it": 9
- b) what is that? :16
- c) no : 6

## Question 3:

Why?

"My older kid has autism and he was fine until he got a shot at 18 months old, if you can't tell me how he got it I will keep believing it was the shot"

"He is a good kid, likes to follow rules. If you explain the consequences actions can have he will obey"

## Question 2:

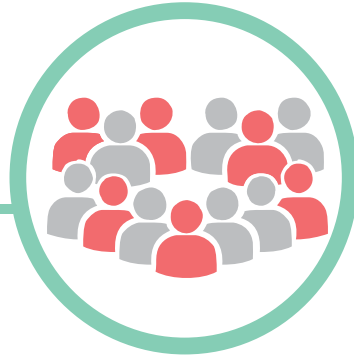
Will you talk to your doctor about vaccinating your kids against HPV today?

20 yes

2 no



# EVALUATION



The project had a good impact on the group it was implemented on. Out of the 22 participants that received the pamphlet **20 said they would talk to their doctor** about HPV vaccination that same day. However, for future experiments recording how many patients received the vaccination after the intervention could be advantageous.

In addition to this the project had a limited amount of time and a limited amount of resources. The population interviewed was very small. Also, **the intervention was only done in a single pediatrics office** which does not really represent the Plattsburgh population.





# RECOMENDATIONS

It would be pertinent to do a bigger scale campaign with many locations **including pediatric offices and schools** to demystify the myths surrounding HPV vaccinations and to promote knowledge about this topic since most parents did not know what HPV was or what it could cause.

Many commented:

“I didn’t know it could cause mouth and throat cancers”

“I thought this was for teens”

It would also be beneficial to **ask pediatricians to report** to the county the amount of HPV vaccinations they provide, and how many of the kids complete the required shots. Since some of the sources said this was a problem and others said this was not an issue it could be beneficial to determine if this is an ongoing problem or not



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# PAMPHLET


## MYTHS

- 1. "HPV IS NOT A BIG DEAL, IT WILL CLEAR ON ITS OWN"**

SOME PEOPLE DO NOT ERADICATE THE VIRUS ON THEIR OWN AND THERE IS WHEN CANCER AND OTHER DISEASES CAN EMERGE.
- 2. GUYS DO NOT GET HPV**

GUYS ARE ALSO AFFECTED BY HPV THEY CAN DEVELOP MOUTH, THROAT AND ANAL CANCERS BESIDES WARTS.
- 3. MY KID IS ONLY A PRETEEN HE IS TOO YOUNG, THERE IS NO NEED TO RUSH.**

TAKING ACTION TODAY CAN SAVE TROUBLES TOMORROW. THE OLDER YOUR KID IS, THE HIGHER THE RISK HE OR SHE HAS OF CONTRACTING THE DISEASE.



### TAKE ACTION


Take the steps to protect your kid today. The HPV vaccine is like any other vaccine. If you are willing to protect your kid against meningitis or whooping cough, why not protect him/her against cancer?

The HPV vaccine is the first time in human history we have a vaccination against cancer.

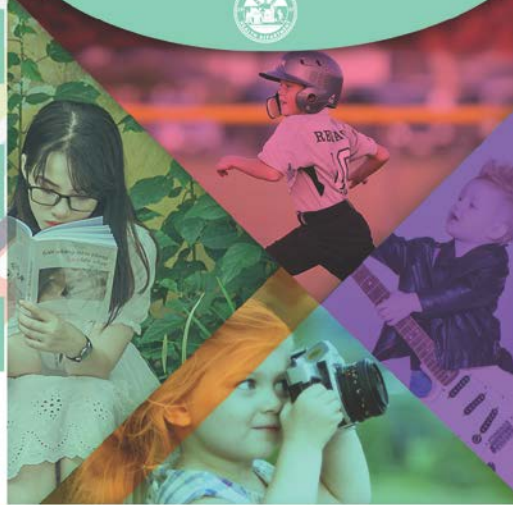
Hopefully in the future we develop more vaccinations with the same potential to save lives from other cancers.

Let's take advantage of this discovery today to protect the future adult inside your kid.

Talk to your doctor about HPV vaccine today!



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## PROTECT WITHIN YOUR CHILD

### THE FUTURE ADULT

## HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV)

- EACH YEAR THERE ARE 14 MILLION NEW CASES OF HPV IN THE US.**
- 50% OF THESE CASES ARE PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 TO 24.**
- THIS MEANS EVERY DAY AROUND 10000 TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS ACQUIRE THE HPV VIRUS. THIS IS ABOUT THE SIZE OF ALL OF PLATTSBURGH'S POPULATION.**
- HPV CAUSES 90% OF CERVICAL CANCER BUT IT CAN ALSO CAUSE ANAL, VAGINAL, THROAT AND MOUTH CANCER BESIDES GENITAL WARTS.**
- EVERY YEAR THERE ARE 8300 NEW CASES OF ANAL CANCER AND 4900 NEW CASES OF VAGINAL CANCER.**
- IN THE U.S., ABOUT 12,000 WOMEN GET CERVICAL CANCER EVERY YEAR, AND ABOUT 4,000 WOMEN DIE FROM IT.**
- EVERY HOUR 40 NEW CASES OF GENITAL WARTS OCCUR IN THE U.S. EVEN AFTER TREATED IN 25% OF THE CASES THE WARTS WILL APPEAR AGAIN.**
- THERE IS NO TREATMENT TO GET RID OF HPV ONCE YOU HAVE IT.**

## THE VACCINE

According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the recommended age for starting routine HPV vaccination for both boys and girls is at age 11 or 12.

Vaccinating early saves you a shot. Review by the CDC of several clinical studies led them to conclude that two doses of HPV vaccine in younger adolescents (aged 9-14 years) produced an immune response similar or higher than the response in young adults (aged 16-26 years) who received three doses.

This vaccine is very effective, between the years of 2006 (when the vaccine was introduced) and 2014 there was a 71% reduction in HPV infections and a dramatic decrease in the number of genital warts and cervical dysplasia in teens and women in their early 20s.

Gardasil 9 has been studied in more than 15 000 individuals and has been determined safe by the FDA after rigorous trials to confirm its effectiveness and safety.

More than 100 million vaccinations given, and 10 years of research support the fact that it is safe.

Also, it is a vaccine that your insurance will cover for individuals that fall within the recommended vaccination range.