

## **HPV (Gardasil) Vaccine in Boys and Young Men**

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV, Gardasil) vaccination has recently been recommended by some groups of experts for all boys in the pre-teen or early teen age group. This vaccination has been recommended for girls in this age group and young women for some time.

The strains of this virus prevented by this vaccine are usually transmitted sexually and infect skin cells and mucous membrane cells. The strains covered by this vaccine are responsible for most cases of genital warts in both sexes and cervical cancer in women. These strains also play a role in many cases of throat and rectal cancer in both sexes. These cancers are much less common than cervical cancer, but unlike cervical cancer there is no early warning test (like the PAP smear) for these. The virus can live in a person's cells for years. Cancers caused by this virus develop years after the infection is acquired. The vaccine does not eliminate the virus after someone is infected, but does protect again infection with other strains.

The vaccine is given as a series of 3 shots, one at 2 months and one at 6 months after the first shot. Most insurances cover the cost of vaccination.

The vaccine is now being recommended for boys to lower the risk of rectal and throat cancer later in life, lower the risk of getting genital warts, and as a way to reduce the number of infected people in the population as a group.

We would be happy to discuss this or answer any questions you have.