

GARDASIL® (HPV VACCINE)

What is the link between HPV and cervical cancer?

High risk Human Papillomavirus types 16 -18 are linked to 70% of cervical cancers in Australia. It usually takes more than 10 years for cervical cancer to develop. During this time, cervical cell lesions can be detected through regular Pap smear screening enabling treatment to be given before the development of cancer. Most women who have HPV slowly clear the virus naturally and do NOT develop cervical cancer.

Who is eligible for the free HPV vaccine?

Females aged between 12 – 26 years old.

What is the rollout plan for school girls?

From April 2007, Councils will deliver free HPV vaccine through school-based programs to girls. The schedule is as follows:

2007	Year 7 Year 10 Year 11 Year 12	} } } }	Secondary School
2008	Year 7 Year 9 Year 10	} } }	Secondary School
2009 and ongoing	Year 7		Secondary School

What is the rollout plan for women aged 18 -26 years?

From July 2007 until June 2009, free HPV vaccine is available through general practice. The full course of 3 doses must be completed before the end of June 2009 and/or before the woman reaches 27 years of age.

Should females be vaccinated if they have had sexual contact?

Yes

Should females be vaccinated if they have had genital warts or an abnormal pap smear?

Yes

What is the recommended vaccine schedule?

Gardasil® is given as a series of three injections with in a six month period.

What are the contraindications to Gardasil?

Gardasil® should NOT be given to any person who:

- Is pregnant
- Has a history of sever immediate hypersensitivity to yeast or any other components of vaccine or had a previous reaction to a previous dose.
- Has a moderate to severe febrile illness

Who is the vaccine NOT recommended for?

It has not been tested in children younger than 9 years, males over 15 years, females over 26 years and HIV positive people.

What are the common side effects?

Mild to moderate pain, redness or swelling at the injection site

- Headache
- Fever
- Nausea

Can breastfeeding women have the HPV vaccine?

Yes.

Further information is available on the following websites:

- Immunise Australia Program – www.immunise.health.gov.au or www.health.gov.au/cervical cancer
- NCIRS - www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au
- Information about the National Screening Program is available on the Cancer Screening website at www.cancerscreening.gov.au

You can also telephone the National Immunisation Infoline on 1800 671 811 or Immunisation Program (Victoria) on 1300 882 008.