

Throat Cancer from a Virus? Facts YOU should Know

Can I get throat cancer from a virus?

YES. Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus with more than **100 types** (only a few can cause cancer).

LOW-RISK HPV TYPE
Cause warts or bumps in either the:

- Mouth
- Throat
- Or genitals



HIGH-RISK HPV TYPE
Cause cancer in these places:

- **Women:** throat, cervix, vagina, anus
- **Men:** throat, anus, penis



How do I catch HPV?

HPV is passed by direct contact during sex

- Your partner must have HPV infection to catch it
- Oral, anal, or vaginal sex
- It may even be passed through open mouth kissing



FOR ABOUT 1-2 OF EVERY 100 PEOPLE, THE VIRUS STAYS AND HAS A CHANCE TO CAUSE CANCER

- Only for high-risk types
- Takes from 10-30 years or more years to get throat cancer

Is HPV common?



- It is the most common sexually transmitted disease in America
- In most cases, the body fights off the virus

What is HPV-related throat cancer?



BY THROAT CANCER, WE MEAN THESE SPOTS:

- Tonsils
- The base (the very back) of the tongue



www.headandneck.org



www.ahns.info

What do I do?

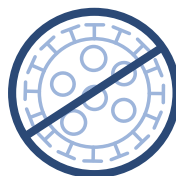
PREVENTION

Get the HPV Vaccination



- Get an HPV Vaccine called **Gardasil 9** for people in the United States
- Males and females ages **9 to 45**
- **Two or three shots**, depending on your age

Avoid Infection



- Use safe sex practices
- Avoid high numbers of sexual partners
- Use barrier protection, such as condoms

What are the side effects of HPV vaccine?

MOST COMMON

Pain, redness or swelling at the site of the injection

OTHER COMMON

- Dizziness
- Fainting
- Nausea

SEVERE

Is extremely low risk and is similar to other vaccines

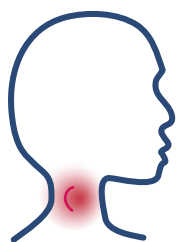


IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE HPV-RELATED THROAT CANCER, SEE A HEAD AND NECK CANCER DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY

What do I do?

DETECTION AND TREATMENT

Signs you may have HPV-related throat cancer:



- Painless neck lump for more than 2 weeks
- Pain or problems swallowing
- Throat pain or ear pain
- Changes in your voice

The sooner the cancer is detected, the better your chances to stay alive

Treatments may include:



- Surgery
- Radiation
- Chemotherapy

Most cases of HPV-related throat cancer are treatable