



The AAP and HPV Vaccine Safety: Frequently Asked Questions

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HPV vaccine is a chance to prevent cancer. The vaccine is safe and effective, and studies show it offers long-lasting protection against several common cancers. The AAP recommends the HPV vaccine for all children at age 11 or 12 as part of the adolescent immunization platform.

- The vaccination series can be started as young as 9 years of age, and in the case of sexual abuse, HPV vaccination is recommended beginning at 9 years of age.
- 9-valent HPV (9vHPV), 4-valent HPV (4vHPV) (as supplies last), and 2-valent HPV (2vHPV) vaccines are also recommended for females 13 through 26 years of age not previously immunized. 9vHPV and 4vHPV (as supplies last) are also recommended for males 13 through 21 years of age not previously immunized.
- Males 22 through 26 years of age may be immunized with 9vHPV or 4vHPV, and either is recommended for men who have sex with men.
- Either (9vHPV or 4vHPV) is recommended for people who are immunocompromised (including those with HIV infection) through 26 years of age.
- HPV vaccines are not licensed for use in people older than 26 years of age.

Are HPV vaccines safe?

The HPV vaccines are safe. About 79 million doses of HPV vaccine have been distributed in the U.S. since June 2006 when HPV vaccine was first licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). On July 25, 2014, the CDC published [data](#) confirming the safety and efficacy of 2vHPV and 4vHPV vaccines. Additionally, on March 27, 2015 the CDC published [data and recommendations](#) of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for the use of 9vHPV vaccine. All vaccines in the U.S. are required to go through years of extensive safety testing before they are licensed by the FDA.

- During pre-licensure clinical trials:
 - 9vHPV vaccine (Gardasil 9) was studied in more than 13,000 males and females
 - 4vHPV vaccine (Gardasil) was studied in more than 29,000 males and females
 - 2vHPV vaccine (Cervarix) was studied in more than 30,000 females
- Each vaccine was found to be safe and effective.

What are the common side effects of HPV vaccination?

The most commonly reported side effects following 2vHPV and 4vHPV for males and females include redness and soreness at the injection site, dizziness, syncope, nausea, and headache. Overall, reporting of adverse events to the national Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) is consistent with pre-licensure clinical trial data. The most commonly reported side effects following 9vHPV for males and females include moderate site related pain, swelling and erythema. Rates of injection-side swelling and erythema both increased with successive doses of 9vHPV.

Do HPV vaccines cause autoimmune disorders?

HPV vaccines do not cause autoimmune disorders. Data suggests that those who receive the HPV vaccine have the same likelihood of developing autoimmune disorders as those who are unvaccinated. Studies have looked at a range of autoimmune disorders, including Guillan-Barré syndrome, multiple sclerosis and lupus, and found there is no relationship between HPV vaccines and autoimmune disorders.

Are HPV vaccines related to premature ovarian failure?

HPV vaccine does not cause premature ovarian failure. There are many causes of premature ovarian failure, a condition in which a woman's ovaries no longer function as they should. There have been six reports to VAERS related to ovarian complications, which have been investigated. CDC and FDA have found no evidence that Gardasil may be causing premature ovarian failure, and continue to monitor for vaccine safety.

Have HPV vaccines been linked to death?

Some deaths have been reported to VAERS among persons who received HPV vaccine. Though a death might occur after a person receives a vaccine or medication, this does not mean that the vaccine or medication caused the death. All reports of death are reviewed by medical doctors at CDC or FDA.

- Detailed review of every report of death following a person's receipt of the HPV vaccine has shown:
 - There is no pattern of death occurring with respect to time after vaccination
 - There is no consistent vaccine dose number or combination of vaccines given
 - There is no diagnosis at death that would suggest that the HPV vaccine caused the death