

How do you prevent oral HPV?

- Abstinence from any skin-skin sexual activity
- Having one lifelong sexual partner
- Limiting the number of sexual partners
- Vaccine- check with your local doctor to see if you are a candidate

The HPV vaccine (Gardasil) protects against new HPV infections; it does not cure existing HPV infections or disease. It is recommended for males and females age 11-26.



CONDOMS DO NOT PREVENT HPV!

They help reduce the risk of transmission but since they don't cover the entire affected area HPV can still be spread.

Dental dams will cover more of the affected area than condoms so they are recommended for oral sex, but are not 100% effective.

References/Photo Credit

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NEW YORK CITY
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

*the senior-level college of technology
of The City University of New York*

Oral HPV

What's your mouth got to do with it?



Kristen Adams

Diana Betancourt-Arboleda

Sera Laganelli

What is oral HPV (Human papillomavirus)?

HPV is a virus. It is the most common sexually transmitted infection, and can be spread through skin to skin contact.

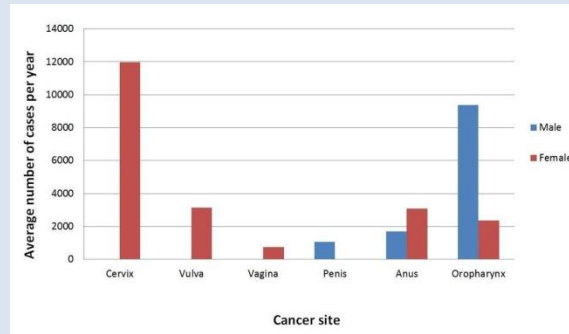
How is oral HPV spread?

Evidence strongly suggests that oral HPV is mostly transmitted by sexual contact.

An increase in oral sex is suspected as the cause of the increase in the number of HPV infections.

Who is at risk for Oral HPV?

- Men are 6-7 times more likely to get oral HPV than women
- Multiple sexual partners
- Smoking, Chewing tobacco and drinking alcohol



The graph shows that the #2 place HPV causes cancer is the oral region.

What are the symptoms of Oral HPV?

Most people with oral HPV have no symptoms at all; therefore it can easily go undetected and spread to your sexual partner.

Symptoms that do appear later if untreated include:

- Difficulty swallowing
- Coughing up blood
- A lump on the neck or in the cheek
- Persistent hoarseness/sore throat



Can oral HPV cause oral cancer?

Yes, oral HPV infection can lead to oral cancer. It can cause cancerous lesions in the mouth, often near the back of the tongue, on the tonsils or the back of the throat.



How is Oral HPV is treated?

People with oral HPV lesions can have them removed with a laser or get a biopsy. If the lesion is cancerous then further treatment will be necessary. Some of these treatment options include:

- Chemotherapy
- Radiation Therapy
- Surgical removal of affected area