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NUH Women's Centre
Is My Answer

Cervical Cancer Vaccination

Information in this brochure is given as a guide and should not replace medical advice from your doctor. Please seek the advice of your doctor if you have any questions relating to the surgery, your health or medical condition.

Information is correct at time of print (Feb 2012) and subject to revision without notice.

Vaccinate Early!

Cancer does not affect young people?

Think again!

As a teenager or a parent of one, cancer prevention is probably the last thing on your mind. But if you have the means to prevent one of the most common cancers among women in Singapore, would you?

Cervical Cancer affects thousands of women worldwide. Cancer of the cervix, or cervical cancer develops when abnormal cells in the lining of the cervix start to multiply abnormally and becomes cancerous.

Young women can be protected from cervical cancer through vaccination and regular Pap smear tests.

What causes cervical cancer?



The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) causes almost all cervical cancer. In addition, it can also cause common warts, plantar warts and genital warts.

There are many different types of HPV. Some cause no harm; others can cause diseases of the genital area.

The latter, when left untreated, may cause genital warts, pre-cancerous change or even cancerous growths in the cervix depending on the HPV type. HPV types which cause cervical cancer are transmitted through sexual contact.

Who is eligible for the HPV vaccine?



The vaccine is recommended for all young women. Ideally, the vaccine should be given before the first sexual contact. This will allow the girl's immune system to be activated before she is likely to contract HPV. Although it is more effective when given at a younger age between 9 to 12 years old, females up to age 26 who are sexually active are advised to be vaccinated.

According to the Ministry of Health guidelines, young women aged between 9 to 26 years old are eligible for the \$300 Medisave claim for vaccination. They can use their own Medisave or that of their immediate family members (eg. parents or spouse) to help pay for the vaccination.

How is the HPV vaccine given?



The HPV Vaccine is given over 3 injections within 6 months

Is the vaccine safe?



The cervical cancer vaccine has been proven to be safe, although minor common side effects include soreness at the site of injection can occur.

Will I be fully protected from all cervical cancers after being vaccinated?



No. The vaccine only provides protection against the two major HPV virus types that cause 70% of all cervical cancers. Routine screening through Pap Smear test and pelvic examination remains important.

NUH provides a range of comprehensive screening packages such as wellness packages and Mother-Daughter packages, to help you stay in the pink of health.

What is a Pap smear test?



A Pap smear is a simple test whereby cells from the surface of the cervix are collected and examined for abnormalities under the microscope.

A Pap smear can detect treatable changes of the cervix before you experience a symptom or notice a problem.