

## 7. What are the common side effects?

Headache, dizziness, nausea, fever are the most common clinical side effects. Soreness, swelling and redness may also be seen at the injection site.

## 8. When can I get pregnant after the whole vaccination procedure?

At least one month after the whole vaccination procedure is preferred.

## 9. How long does the vaccine last?

The vaccine is effective for about 10 years upon completion of the whole vaccination procedure.

## 10. Is screening still necessary after HPV vaccination?

HPV vaccination can only protect against the HPV types included in the vaccines only and is not 100% effective. Annual gynaecological check-up is recommended.

## 11. What is the timeline for HPV vaccination?

According to the recommendations of pharmaceutical companies, the most common HPV vaccination should be completed within a year. The three doses of vaccine can be given within four months to a year. Normally, it can be completed in six months.

The second dose can be given at least one to two months after the first dose, while the third dose should be received at least three to four months after the second dose.



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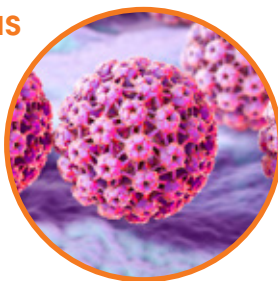
# Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and HPV Vaccine

家庭醫學及  
基層醫療中心

Family Medicine and  
Primary Care Centre

## Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Human Papillomaviruses (HPV) can cause cervical cancer, vulvar and vaginal cancer, anal cancer, head and neck cancer, throat cancer as well as genital warts.



## Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (also known as cervical cancer vaccine) is a prophylactic vaccine that can prevent cervical cancer as well as other HPV-related cancers or diseases. All registered HPV vaccines in Hong Kong are prescription-only, and should be used only after clinical assessment by registered doctors.

According to the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases of Centre for Health Protection, the 9-valent vaccine could prevent up to 90% of cervical cancer.

Vaccines	9-valent HPV
Against HPV	HPV 6,11,16,18,31,33,45,52,58
Indicated age	From the age of 9 years (Both female & male)
Diseases prevention caused by related HPV	Cervical cancer, genital warts
Approved dose regime in Hong Kong	9 to 14 years old: 2 doses 15 years old and above: 3 doses

## Who Should Get HPV Vaccination?

HPV vaccines work best for women who have never been infected with HPV. Therefore, they should be most effective in women who have not started sexual activities. The effectiveness varies for those with sexual experience. Please consult your doctor for details.

## Common Side Effects

HPV vaccinations share similar common side effects with other vaccinations, such as soreness and swelling at the injection site, fever, headache and nausea. Please consult your doctor for further advice.



## HPV Vaccination Not Recommended for People with Below Conditions

- Pregnant women (Avoid getting pregnant during vaccination period)
- Fever
- Allergic to the components of HPV vaccines
- A history of allergic reaction due to prior HPV vaccination

You should first consult your doctor if you are on immunosuppressive therapy, have genetic defects, human immunodeficiency virus or other immune system defects, thrombocytopenia or clotting disorders.

## Is Cervical Cancer Screening still Necessary after HPV Vaccination?

Women should still have regular cervical cancer screening after HPV vaccination, for HPV vaccines provides no protection against infection by other HPV types found in the vaccines, nor can clear the virus in those already infected.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Why are pregnant women not recommended to have HPV vaccination?

According to the pharmaceutical companies, in the absence of adequate statistics data, foetus safety is not guaranteed if HPV vaccination is received during pregnancy. Therefore, HPV vaccination during pregnancy is not recommended.

### 2. Is it possible to receive the third dose if women gets pregnant after receiving the first two?

Women should receive the third dose after delivery to complete the whole vaccination procedure.

### 3. Can I receive other vaccinations concurrently?

Yes, you can receive HPV vaccination with others at the same time.

### 4. Can I receive vaccination if I catch a cold or flu or feel unwell?

You can still receive HPV vaccination if you feel well and symptoms are mild. Otherwise it is not recommended for those with fever or in poor health.

### 5. Can I receive vaccination if I am allergic to certain food or drugs?

Vaccination is not recommended for those who are allergic to proteins contained in the related vaccine.

### 6. Should I do gynaecological check-up before receiving HPV vaccination?

You should consult your doctor for the most suitable vaccination regimes.