



HPV, GENITAL WARTS, & CANCER

Currently, there is no cure for HIV/AIDS. If treated early people with HIV/AIDS can live long healthy lives.

WHAT IS HPV?

HPV is a viral infection that can be passed on during unprotected vaginal, oral, and anal sex. It can also be passed from an infected mother to her child. People with HPV often show no symptoms, which is why many spread the infection without knowing it.

The good news is that most people who have HPV do not develop health problems from it. In most cases, the body naturally clears HPV within two years. But sometimes, the body does not clear HPV.

HPV can cause genital warts, warts in the throat (which is rare), cervical cancer, and other less common but serious cancers, including cancers of the vagina, penis, anus, and throat.

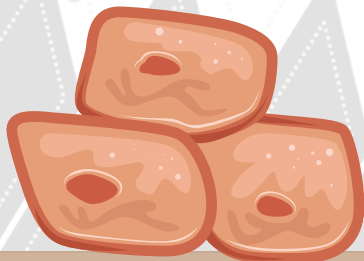
CERVICAL AND OTHER CANCERS

Cervical cancer doesn't usually cause any symptoms unless it is pretty advanced. Because of this, women need to get a regular pap test (to check for abnormal cells). Some experts also recommend getting an anal pap test to check for signs of anal cancer for those who regularly have anal sex. Getting a pap test can find early signs of disease to treat problems early before they develop into cancer.

Other HPV-related cancers might not show any symptoms until they are advanced and more challenging to treat. For signs and symptoms of these cancers, check out www.cancer.gov.

GENITAL WARTS

Genital warts usually appear as a small flesh-colored bump or group of nodes in the genital area. They can be large, small, raised or flat, or shaped like a cauliflower. Health care providers can usually determine if someone has genital warts by looking at the warts. There is no cure for any kind of HPV, including the types that cause genital warts, but if the warts cause you discomfort, they can be removed with medications that you can apply yourself or through treatments performed by your healthcare provider. If left untreated, genital warts might disappear, remain unchanged, or increase in size or number.



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Get Educated

For vaginal and anal sex: Learn how to use latex condoms the right way and use them every time. They're the only way to prevent STDs during vaginal and anal sex.

For oral sex: Use condoms for oral sex on a penis and dental dams for oral sex on a vagina or anus.

For fingering, hand jobs, and other intimate touching: Wash your hands with soap and water after touching your partner's genitals before touching your own (and vice versa). To be extra safe, some people choose to use latex gloves. Find what works for you.

Get Tested

Getting tested with your partner and treating any infection will keep you safe from the negative consequences of gonorrhea.

Be Smart

Have sex with only one partner, who has been tested and is not infected, and who is only having sex with you.

Stay Clear

Avoid drinking alcohol and doing drugs before you have sex. It isn't easy to make good decisions when under the influence.

Get Vaccinated

Vaccines have been developed to protect both men and women from HPV infection. These can prevent a majority of problems caused by HPV, including genital warts and cancer. Ask your healthcare provider about the different HPV vaccines and whether they recommend one for you.

WHAT DOESN'T WORK

- "Pulling out" before a man ejaculates into the vagina or anus
- Birth control (it only reduces the risk of pregnancy)
- Washing your genitals, peeing, or douching after sex

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information about HPV visit:

- www.plannedparenthood.org
- itsyoursexlife.com/gyt/know
- www.weRnative.org
- www.gbtchb.org

