



IS HPV

Life Threatening?

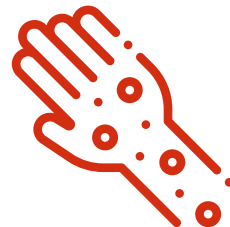
HPV – or human papillomavirus – is a viral infection believed to cause 100% of cervical cancers, and it's therefore vital that children get vaccinated between the ages of 11 and 12 – before they become sexually active.

HPV, in itself, isn't life threatening, but the danger is that it can lead to a number of cancers – specifically cervical cancer in women, and anal cancer in men and women. What's important to understand is that you get various types of HPV – not just one.



LOW RISK

HPV-6 and -11 are considered the two low-risk forms of HPV. This means that they have a very low chance of leading to cancer, but they do cause genital warts.



HIGH RISK

There's a range of HPV that falls into the high risk category – mainly, HPV types 16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, and 68. HPV-16 is responsible for about 50% of cervical cancers.



How Can I Protect Myself

In the case of HPV, prevention is better than cure. You can talk to your doctor about getting the HPV vaccine – although it won't be as effective if you're already sexually active, it will reduce your chances of getting the infection. Women should also see their doctor routinely for a pap smear, which will indicate if there have been any changes in the cervix. While it is slightly uncomfortable, this simple test will help the doctor detect early signs of cancer and potentially save your life.

Remember!

For more information, support and advice feel free to reach out to us on:

TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 0800 000 408

EMAIL: transneteap@mhg.co.za

SMS or send a please call me: 083 450 0508