Facts about HPV vaccine

Many parents are reading and hearing lots of scare stories about HPV vaccine.

Gardasil HPV vaccine is safe and effective.

Please read the facts below

1. Every year in Ireland
   - 6,500 women need hospital treatment for a precancerous growth
   - 300 (many young) women get cervical cancer
   - 90 women die from cervical cancer

2. HPV vaccine prevents cervical cancer

3. Gardasil HPV vaccine works best when given before the age of 15 years

4. Gardasil HPV vaccine is recommended by the World Health Organization and is used in over 25 European countries, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand

5. Over 100 million people have been fully vaccinated with Gardasil HPV vaccine worldwide including over 230,000 girls in Ireland

6. HPV vaccine is safe and effective

7. There are no long term side effects after Gardasil HPV vaccine

8. Gardasil HPV vaccine does not cause any serious long term condition including chronic fatigue syndrome and autoimmune diseases

9. Gardasil HPV vaccine does not cause premature ovarian failure

10. Protection from Gardasil HPV vaccine is long lasting
FACT 1

The best way to prevent cervical cancer is by HPV vaccination and cervical screening.

Every year in Ireland over 6,500 women need hospital treatment for a precancerous growth and over 280 (many young) women need treatment (surgery, chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy) for invasive cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer screening detects pre cancer or cancer of the cervix.

Gardasil HPV vaccine prevents precancerous growths and cancer developing. Gardasil HPV vaccine provides protection against HPV types that cause 70% of precancerous growths and cancer.

Cervical screening is still needed to detect pre cancer or cancer of the cervix caused by HPV types not in the vaccine.

WHO fact sheet on Human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer available at: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs380/en/

FACT 2

Some HPV infections caused by high risk HPV types can progress to precancerous growths which may then progress to cervical cancer.

Gardasil HPV vaccine has been scientifically proven to prevent the HPV infection that causes 7 out of 10 cervical cancers.

In countries with high HPV vaccine uptake such as Australia and Scotland precancerous growths of the cervix have been reduced by more than half.

In Scotland research has shown there has been a 90% fall in cancer causing HPV infections in vaccinated girls. These new findings indicate that the positive impact of the HPV vaccine may be even greater than was initially thought. The HPV vaccination programme in Scotland has achieved a consistently high uptake of around 90% in 12- to 13-year-old girls.

Since the HPV vaccination programme began in Australia in 2007, infection with cervical cancer causing HPV types 16 and 18 in young women has also fallen dramatically, leading to a fall in the number of cervical pre-cancers.

HPV vaccine impact in Australian women: ready for an HPV-based screening program


**FACT 3**

There is a better immune response in young girls between 9 and 15 years of age compared with older teenage girls and young women (aged 16–26 years).

References


*Human Papillomavirus Vaccination: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations and Reports August 29, 2014 / 63(RR05);1-30* [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6305a1.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6305a1.htm)
FACT 4

All national and international scientific and regulatory bodies recommend HPV vaccine including

- the World Health Organization
- the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the US
- the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC)
- the International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FIGO)
- the American Society for Clinical Oncology

Gardasil HPV vaccine is currently used in over 25 European countries, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Source: apps.who.int/immunization/monitoring_surveillance/VaccineIntroStatus.pptx
FACT 5

Over 100 million people have been fully vaccinated with Gardasil HPV vaccine worldwide including over 230,000 girls in Ireland

**HPV vaccine has not been withdrawn in any country.**

**Denmark**

The Danish Health Authority has recommended HPV vaccine for girls as part of the national childhood immunisation programme since 2009.

The HPV vaccine used in Denmark is changing from Cervarix to Gardasil9 in November 2017 following a commercial tender process.

Gardasil9 protects from HPV types that are responsible for almost 90% of cervical cancers.

**Japan**

The Japanese government stopped active recommendation of HPV vaccination but has never banned the HPV vaccines.

Gardasil is still available in Japan.

In July 2017 the World Health Organization (WHO) reported the mortality rate from cervical cancer in Japan, where HPV vaccination is not proactively recommended, increased by 3.4% from 1995 to 2005 and is expected to increase by 5.9% from 2005 to 2015.


The Japanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (JSOG) continues to actively campaign for the resumption of recommendations for HPV vaccination given the high rates of cervical cancer deaths in Japan.

**Declaration to Demand the Resumption of Recommendations for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination for Cervical Cancer Prevention** available at [http://www.jsog.or.jp/english/declaration_20150829.html](http://www.jsog.or.jp/english/declaration_20150829.html)

India

In 2010 the Indian Council of Medical Research suspended the HPV vaccine programme following unofficial reports of serious adverse reactions. Despite this the HPV vaccine remained available in India and continued to be endorsed by other advisory committees.

In March 2016 the Delhi government launched a HPV vaccine schools programme for girls.

FACT 6

Most girls have no problems after HPV vaccine. Side effects that are caused by the vaccine are:

• 1 in 10 girls will have pain, swelling and redness at the injection site and/or headache

• 1 in 100 girls will have nausea, pain in the vaccinated arm and mild fever.

These can be treated with paracetamol or ibuprofen.

• Between 1 in 1000 and 1 in 10,000 girls will have an itchy rash or hives.

Occasionally girls faint after getting an injection. They will be advised to sit down for 15 minutes after vaccination which helps prevent fainting.

Severe allergic reactions are extremely rare. As usual seek medical advice if you are concerned.

You can read more information in the patient information leaflet (PIL)

http://www.medicines.ie/medicine/11535/PIL/GARDASIL/

www.hpv.ie
FACT 7

Gardasil HPV vaccine is a safe vaccine with no known long term side effects.

All international bodies have continually reported that HPV vaccine is safe with no known long-term side effects.

The safety profile of Gardasil has been studied for over 13 years in over 1 million people during clinical trials and since the vaccine was licensed in 2006.

There has been no increase in the rates of any serious long term condition including autoimmune diseases and chronic fatigue syndrome in vaccinated girls.


FACT 8

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) in Ireland continues to monitor the safety of HPV vaccine.

All healthcare professionals and members of the public are encouraged to report any suspected adverse reactions associated with vaccination to the HPRA. The various methods of reporting are available at [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie)

Since the HPV vaccine Gardasil was authorised (i.e. licensed) in Ireland in 2006 and up to 31st March 2017

HPRA has received 1082* reports of suspected adverse reactions/events associated with its use

- The majority of these reports have been consistent with the types of effects known to occur with the vaccine, as described in the product information.
- 18 reports received included the term ‘chronic fatigue syndrome’
- 10 reports received included the term ‘post viral fatigue’
- 5 reports received included the term ‘auto immune disorder’

*Please note that these figures are subject to constant change as new reports are received or information is provided that identifies an existing report as a duplicate of another case, leading to merging of reports etc.
FACT 9

HPV vaccine does not cause premature ovarian failure.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the US have not found any scientific evidence that Gardasil HPV vaccine causes ovarian failure.


FACT 10

Protection from Gardasil HPV vaccine is long lasting.

Gardasil HPV vaccine has been scientifically proven to prevent any infection with the HPV virus types 6, 11, 16 and 18 for at least 9 years without any loss of immunity.

Gardasil HPV vaccine like other vaccines such as hepatitis B vaccine is expected to provide life time protection from these viruses because the immune system develops antibodies to the virus after the vaccination.

See http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/stdfact-hpv-vaccine-young-women.htm