

HPV: Test Your Knowledge Quiz

Q. What is the main cause of cervical cancer and has been shown to cause some vaginal, vulval and anal cancers and genital warts?

- **Smoking**
- **Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection (correct answer)**
- **Weakened immune system**
- **Other infections**

While factors such as the oral contraceptive pill, smoking, a woman's immune system and the presence of other infections seem to play a part, a woman has to have been infected with certain "high-risk" HPV types before cervical cancer can develop.

In most people HPV is harmless and has no symptoms, but in some people the virus may persist and lead to diseases of the genital area.

In females, HPV has been also been shown to cause some vaginal, vulval and anal cancers and genital warts.

In males, HPV has been shown to cause genital warts and some anal cancers.

Q. What areas of the body are different HPV types able to infect?

- **Genitals**
- **Hands**
- **Feet**
- **All of the above (correct answer)**

Human Papillomavirus, or HPV, is a common virus that affects both males and females. There are more than 100 types of the virus. In fact, certain types of HPV cause common warts on the hands and feet.

Q. Up to what proportion of males and females will be infected with at least one type of genital HPV at some time?

- **5%**
- **15%**
- **30%**
- **80% (correct answer)**

Up to 80% of people (males and females) will be infected with at least one type of genital HPV at some time.

HPV: Test Your Knowledge Quiz

Q. There are over 100 types of HPV. Approximately how many infect the genital area?

- 40 (correct answer)
- 60
- 80
- 100

About 40 types of HPV are known as genital HPV as they affect the genital area.

Q. What percentage of HPV infections are “cleared” by the body’s immune system within the first 36 months?

- 30%
- 60%
- 90% (correct answer)
- 99%

Up to 90% of HPV infections are "cleared" within 36 months.

Q. Which two “high-risk” HPV types have been shown to cause approximately 70% of all cervical cancers?

- HPV 16 & 33
- HPV 16 & 18 (correct answer)
- HPV 42 & 51
- HPV 18 & 42

“High-risk” HPV types 16 & 18 are responsible for ~70% of all cervical cancers.

Q. Approximately how many new cases of cervical cancer are there a year in Australia?

- 200
- 400
- 600 (correct answer)
- 1,000

Each year in Australia approximately 600 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed and approximately 130 women die from this disease.

Q. Globally cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women?

- True
- False (correct answer)

Globally, cervical cancer is the second most common women's cancer, which is why many countries, including Australia have implemented regular cervical screening (i.e. Pap smears) programs to detect cervical abnormalities.

HPV: Test Your Knowledge Quiz

Q. Approximately how many cases of anal cancers are there each year in Australia?

- 25
- 125
- 225
- 325 (correct answer)

Anal cancer affects both males and females and, although relatively rare, in 2005 there were 149 cases in males and 176 cases in females.

Q. Which two types of “low-risk” HPV types have been shown to cause approximately 90% of genital warts?

- 42 & 31
- 42 & 52
- 6 & 11 (correct answer)
- 11 & 45

Up to 90% of genital warts cases are due to infection with “low-risk” HPV types 6 and 11.

Q. It is estimated that what proportion of young sexually active people have genital warts at any one time?

- 1/50
- 1/100 (correct answer)
- 1/250
- 1/500

Genital warts are quite common. Approximately 1% of young sexually active people have them at any one time.

Q. How are females able to help protect themselves against cervical cancer?

- Attend regular Pap smears when recommended to do so
- Speak to their doctor about whether they are eligible for vaccination
- Use condoms to help reduce the risk of being infected with HPV
- All of the above (correct answer)

If used correctly, condoms can help reduce the risk of genital HPV. It is now possible to be vaccinated against cervical cancer. Vaccination does not protect against all HPV types that could cause cervical cancer therefore it is important women continue with regular Pap smears.

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Q. How are males able to help protect themselves against genital warts and some anal cancers?

- **Speak to their doctor about whether they are eligible for vaccination**
- **Use condoms to help reduce the risk of being infected with HPV**
- **Both of the above (correct answer)**

If used correctly, condoms can help reduce the risk of genital HPV. It is now possible to be vaccinated against some types of HPV. It is important you discuss whether you are eligible for vaccination with your doctor first.