

Circle Of LifeSM: Cancer Education and Wellness for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities

Appendix E: American Cancer Society Guidelines for HPV Vaccine to Prevent Cervical Cancer

The HPV Vaccine can protect against the 2 types of HPV that have been linked to nearly 70% of cervical cancers:

- Routine HPV vaccination is recommended for females ages 11 to 12 years. The vaccine is a series of 3 shots usually given over a 6-month span of time.
- Girls as young as nine years may receive HPV vaccine.
- HPV vaccination is also recommended for females 13 to 18 years of age to catch up on missed vaccine or complete the 3-shot series.
- There are currently insufficient* data to recommend for or against vaccinating women aged 19 to 26 in general. A decision about whether a woman aged 19 to 26 years should receive the vaccine should be based on an informed discussion between the woman and her health care provider regarding her risk of previous HPV exposure and whether the vaccine is likely to help her. Ideally, the vaccine should be given before potential exposure to genital HPV through sex. In studies, the vaccine only helped women who weren't infected with those 2 HPV types before vaccination. The potential benefit is likely to diminish with an increasing number of lifetime sexual partners.
- The HPV vaccination is not recommended for women over age 26.
- Gardasil HPV vaccination was more recently approved by the FDA for use in boys and young men ages 9 to 26 to help protect boys from other cancers and pre-cancers caused by HPV, as well as to prevent genital warts. The vaccine should be given before exposure to genital HPV through sex.
- Pap tests to screen for cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) and cancer will still be needed by both vaccinated and unvaccinated women. A person should follow the Society early detection guidelines.

* Insufficient evidence of benefit in 19- to 26-year-old women refers to clinical trial data. In women with an average of two – and not more than four – lifetime sexual partners, the studies showed a limited reduction in cervical pre-cancers. In women with more than four lifetime sexual partners the vaccine couldn't prevent

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HPV 16 and 18 (the HPV types that cause most pre-cancers and cancers of the cervix).