

# HPV vaccine for ALL MALES over age 11!

**HUH? It prevents cervical cancer, but boys don't get that...**



Since 2006, we have been routinely immunizing girls over age 11 with *HPV* vaccine. Human papillomavirus (*HPV*) is the most common sexually transmitted virus in the United States. At least 50% of people will have *HPV* at some time in their lives. *HPV* vaccines are given as a three shot series to protect against *HPV* infection and *HPV*-related diseases. Two vaccines (*Cervarix* and *Gardasil*) have been shown to protect against most cervical cancers in women, since *HPV* is the main cause. There are about 12,000 new cervical cancer cases each year in the United States, with about 4,000 deaths. *HPV* vaccines offer the greatest health benefits to individuals who receive all three doses before having any type of sexual activity. Also, the vaccine produces more antibody to fight infection when given at this age compared to older ages. That's why *HPV* vaccination has been recommended for preteen girls at age 11 or 12 years.

**SO WHY VACCINATE ALL THE BOYS NOW?**

**7,000**

It has now become clear that about 7,000 *HPV*-associated cancers in the United States occur in men each year, and may be prevented by vaccine. Oropharyngeal cancers are the most common. Males will also be protected against *HPV* warts.

**ARE YOU SURE THE VACCINE IS SAFE?**



Our FDA licensed *HPV* vaccines are safe and effective. Both vaccines were first tested in tens of thousands of people around the world. These studies showed no serious side effects. Common, mild side effects included pain where the shot was given, fever, headache, and nausea. As of September 2011, over 40 million doses of *HPV* vaccine were given in the United States. The side effect list has not changed. As with all vaccines, CDC and FDA continue to monitor the safety of these vaccines extremely carefully.

We hope you find our *Parentletter* helpful and informative. Please keep in mind that receipt of this newsletter does not create a doctor/patient relationship and that it is not meant to serve as a substitute for professional medical advice. For particular pediatric medical concerns, including decisions about diagnoses, medications and other treatments, or if you have any questions after reading this newsletter, please speak with your child's pediatrician. (All illustrations © D.Puder,MD)