

Side effects

Reddening of the skin and soreness at the site of the injection, and possibly headaches or fever, may occur after the vaccination. No serious lasting effects have been observed.

Where should people go to be vaccinated?

Each canton is responsible for organizing its own cervical cancer vaccination programme. For more details, please speak to your doctor.



I'm going to be vaccinated to make sure I'm protected against cervical cancer. It's also an opportunity to check I've had all the other vaccinations that are recommended.

The injections can cause reddening and soreness, which soon wear off. At any rate, the risks involved in vaccination are much lower than the risk of cancer!



Further information:

Additional information on vaccination in general is available on the following website:

www.bag.admin.ch

www.infovac.ch

www.sichimpfen.ch

www.tschau.ch

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Vaccination against cervical cancer

For all girls!



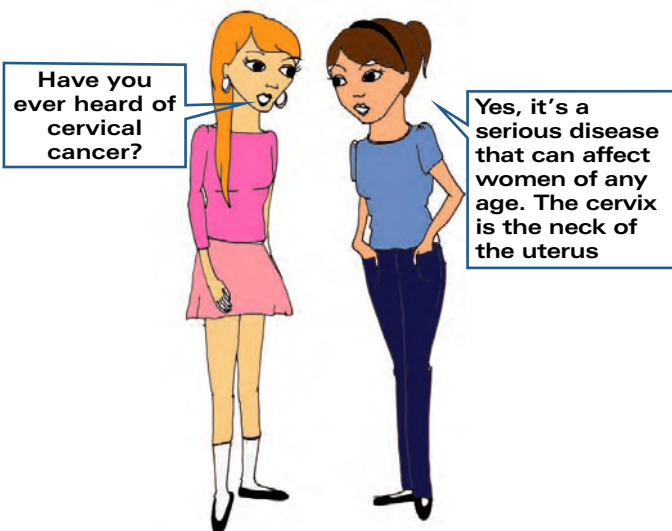
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Key facts

- Cervical cancer is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) infection.
- 70 out of 100 people are infected with HPV at some time in their lives.
- One woman in five infected with certain types of HPV will develop a precancerous condition or cancer.
- Vaccination provides protection against most of the cancer-causing types of HPV.
- Vaccination is recommended for girls aged 11 or older.
- The vaccine is given by injection into the arm, with a course of three doses required to ensure effective protection.
- For girls, the costs of vaccination are reimbursed by health insurers.



Good reasons to be vaccinated

More than 100 different types of HPV can infect the skin and genitals. These viruses are readily transmitted through sexual contacts without producing any noticeable symptoms. Certain types of HPV cause cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer is a disease that develops slowly, with no symptoms appearing for a long time. With regular screening, it can be detected at an early stage. Although treatment can then be given to prevent progression of the disease, some risks remain.

Vaccination offers safe and effective protection against the types of virus responsible for most cases of cervical cancer.

Vaccination does not eliminate the need for regular gynaecological check-ups, as the vaccine does not protect against all the cancer-causing types of HPV.

Condoms, which are essential to prevent infection with sexually transmitted viruses such as HIV, only provide partial protection against HPV.

Vaccination involves a course of three doses given over a period of six months. It is most effective if it is completed before there is any risk of infection, i.e. before becoming sexually active.

Vaccination is recommended for all girls aged between 11 and 14. It is also beneficial for most young women aged between 15 and 19.

From the age of 20, the decision whether or not to be vaccinated should be taken on an individual basis; the women concerned should discuss this question with their doctor.

And what about the boys?

This vaccination is not recommended for men, even though they are also frequently infected with HPV and may transmit the virus to their partner. The benefits of this vaccination have not been demonstrated in men.

