



Communication: The Best Prevention for Cervical Cancer

The best way to protect your daughter against cervical cancer is to discuss with her the ways in which it can be prevented.

The **Pennsylvania Cancer Control Consortium (PAC³)** has put together information to help you help protect your daughter from cervical cancer.

What is cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer develops in the *cervix*, the lower part of the *uterus* that connects the *body of the uterus* (where babies grow) to the *vagina*.

How does it occur?

Cervical cancer, like all cancers, can be caused by many things. One of the most common causes is infection with *Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)*, a common infection that can result from sexual intercourse. *Twenty-three percent (23%) of U.S. women between the ages of 14-59, are infected with HPV; 35% of them are under the age of 19. **

Is HPV infection preventable?

Yes. The best way to prevent HPV infection is to abstain from sexual intercourse. The reality is, however, that young men and women do engage in sexual activities. Using a condom is an important preventive measure to protecting against HPV infection. There are also other measures that can be taken to ensure your daughter is protected from infection. You can help by:

1. Talking with your daughter about cervical cancer and HPV. The **American Cancer Society** (www.cancer.org) and the **National Cancer Institute** (www.cancer.gov) have information on their websites that can help you better understand and talk about HPV. You can also call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 and the National Cancer Institute at 1-800-422-6237 to speak with someone directly.
2. **Talk with your daughter's healthcare provider** about cervical cancer screenings that may be available to your daughter.
3. **Consider getting the HPV vaccine to help prevent cervical cancer.** It may be right for your daughter. Consult with your daughter's healthcare provider first to learn more about the benefits and risks of the vaccine.
4. **Contact PAC³ for more information.** There are many trained professionals in Pennsylvania who can help you learn more, and PAC³ can help you find them. Call 412-623-0033 or visit PAC³ online at www.pac3.org.

Cervical cancer is preventable, and there are many ways you can help protect your daughter from the most common cause of it, HPV infection.

Talk with your daughter about HPV and cervical cancer today and take steps to ensure that she is protected now and in the future.

*Developed by the PAC³ HPV Vaccine Awareness & Access Collaborative Activity Committee.
For more information, call PAC³ at 412-623-0033.*