

## Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine

### **What is human papilloma virus (HPV)?**

Human papilloma virus (HPV) is a common virus that comprises of about 150 types, around 40 of which affect the genital area. HPV is a very common infectious disease and is transmitted via close skin contact and sexual intercourse. Most of the infected persons do not know they have been infected by HPV as there are no symptoms. The human body is usually able to remove the virus by itself after infection. However, cervical cancer may eventually develop if the virus is not removed completely combined with persistent infection.

Some HPV are classified as 'high risk' types and may cause abnormal cellular changes in the uterine cervix called 'cervical intraepithelial neoplasia' (CIN). If appropriate treatment is not given, CIN may develop into cervical cancer. Approximately 70% of cervical cancer was caused by HPV16 and HPV18. Other HPV types are relatively low-risk but may cause genital warts. It is currently known that HPV is a necessary but not the only factor for the development of cervical cancer.

### **Introduction**

There is currently one approved HPV vaccine in Hong Kong, namely Gardasil™. It offers protection against cervical cancer caused by HPV16, HPV18, etc.

	<b>Gardasil™</b>	
Age of Vaccination	Age 9 to 14	Age 15 and above
Recommended Vaccination Schedule *	0, 6 months or 0, 2, 6 months	0, 2, 6 months
Prevention of		
– Cervical cancer		✓
– Vulva cancer		✓
– Vaginal cancer		✓
– Anal cancer		✓
– Genital warts		✓

\* There is some flexibility in the vaccination schedule, please discuss with our medical staff if needed.

### **Safety**

World Health Organization (WHO) has granted approval on Gardasil™. The vaccine does not contain any viral genes nor substances of infectious nature. No HPV infection nor any related diseases would be caused as a result of vaccination.

Common side-effects of the one vaccine (e.g. pain and swelling at the injection site, erythema, itching, bruise and fever) are all minor. It is suggested that 15 minutes be spared for post-injection observation.

## Who should NOT get the vaccine?

1. Women who are pregnant or plan to conceive in the coming 6 months.
2. Individuals who have serious allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine.
3. Lactating women should consult the doctor before getting the vaccine.

Produced by Union Hospital

The above information is for reference only, please enquire your doctor for details  
Our Hospital reserves the RIGHT to amend any information in this leaflet without prior notification

