

Oropharyngeal Cancer (OPC) and HPV Prevention in Children

5 Key Points that Dental Professionals Need to Know

1

OPC is also known as squamous cell carcinoma of the pharynx, including the base of the tongue and tonsils.



The incidence of OPC has overtaken that of cervical cancer. Be sure to screen your patients for oral cavity and oropharyngeal cancers.

2

OPC incidence is rapidly increasing. This cancer is hard to detect before it spreads.



Everyone is at risk for OPC, but middle-aged white men are at higher risk. Unlike oral cavity cancers, smoking and drinking are not common risk factors for OPC.

3

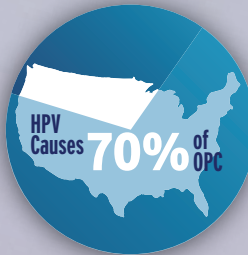
8 out of 10 people will contract the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) at some point in their lives and some will develop cancer. Everyone is at risk.



Although OPC is highly treatable, the treatment and the side effects are severe.

4

HPV causes 70% of OPCs in the US. HPV type 16 (which is covered by HPV vaccine) causes 60% of all OPCs.



HPV vaccine safely effectively prevents infection by the major cancer-causing HPV types.

5

You are the key to cancer prevention.



Recommend the HPV vaccine to children ages 9 – 12. Every visit on or after the 9th birthday is an opportunity to recommend the vaccine.

HPV YOU ARE THE KEY TO CANCER PREVENTION

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

Dental professionals should recommend the HPV vaccine and refer patients to their pediatrician to get vaccinated.

For More Information: aap.org/oralhealth • aap.org/immunization • email: immunize@aap.org

This factsheet is supported by the Grant or Cooperative Agreement Number, 6 NH23IP000952-04-01 and 6 NU380T000282-02-02, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services.

The recommendations in this publication do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate. This fact sheet has been developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The authors, editors, and contributors are expert authorities in the field of pediatrics. No commercial involvement of any kind has been solicited or accepted in the development of the content of this publication.

Copyright © 2021 American Academy of Pediatrics. You may download or print from our website for personal reference only. To reproduce in any form for commercial purposes, please contact the American Academy of Pediatrics.