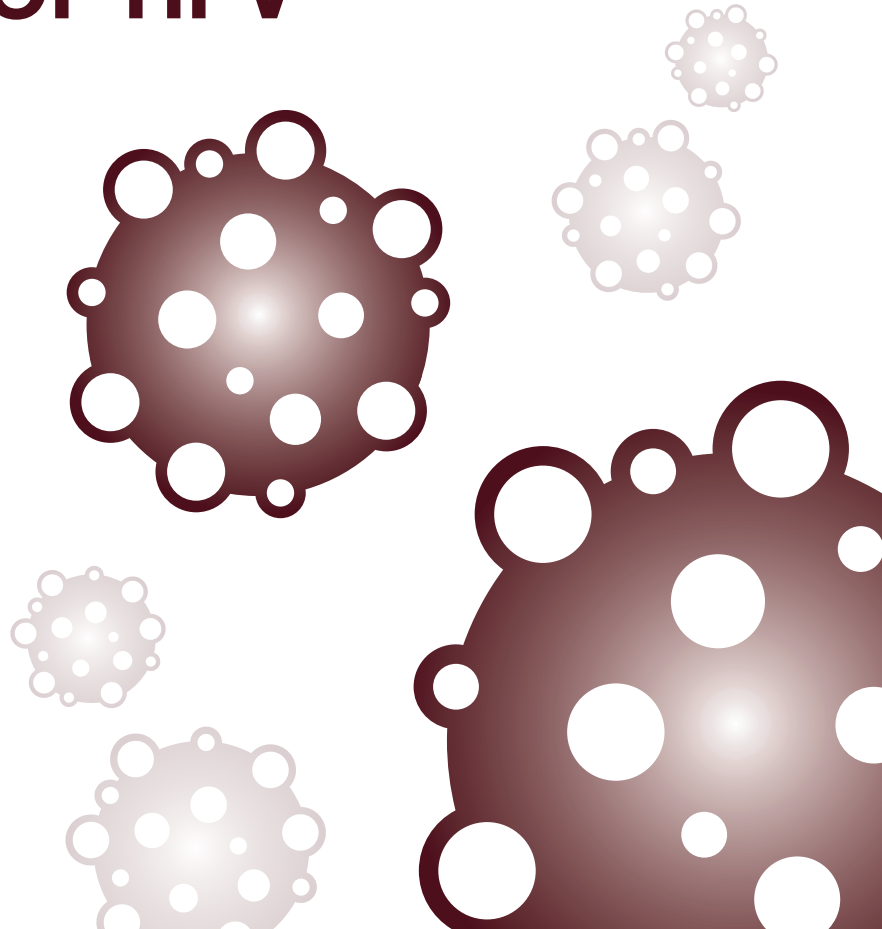
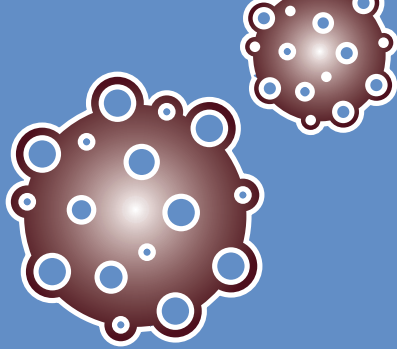


# MAKE SENSE OF HPV



**MAKESENSE**CAMPAIGN



## WHAT IS HUMAN PAPILOMAVIRUS (HPV)?

HPV is very common and over 100 different types have been identified; each type of HPV is known by a number

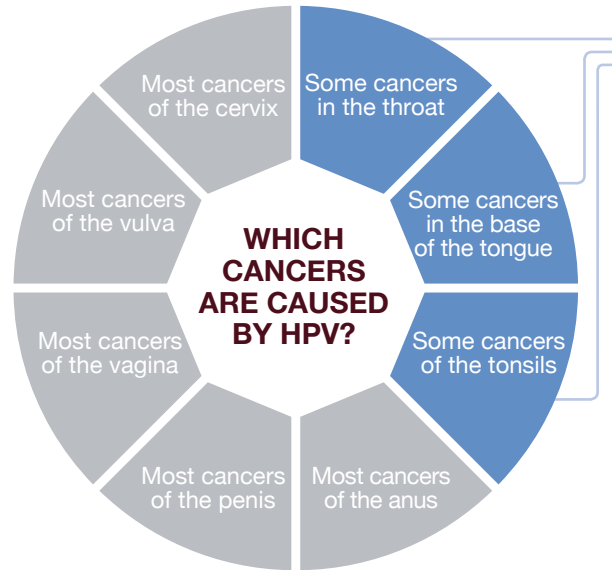
HPV affects the skin and the mucosa (the moist membranes that line parts of the body, such as the insides of the mouth, throat and anus)

For many people, HPV infections come and go without any symptoms. Sometimes, the virus may remain inactive for months after someone has been infected



## WHAT IS THE LINK BETWEEN HPV AND CANCER?

Some types of HPV, known as high risk, generally increase the risk of cancer in the following anatomical regions:



These types of cancers are called oropharyngeal cancers (OPSCC), and are part of the group referred to as 'head and neck cancer'

**Head and neck cancers are the seventh most common cancer worldwide**

## HOW COMMON ARE HPV-RELATED HEAD AND NECK CANCERS?

- In recent times, experts have made a connection between high-risk HPV infection and some oropharyngeal cancers
- New research shows that the incidence of HPV-related head and neck cancer is increasing so quickly that it has been described as an epidemic
- Patients with HPV-related head and neck cancer are generally younger, in good health, and may not have a typical history of tobacco and/or alcohol abuse

**It is estimated that about 70% of oropharyngeal cancers are caused by HPV; however, more research in this field is needed**

## WHAT TREATMENT OPTIONS ARE THERE FOR PEOPLE WITH HPV-RELATED HEAD AND NECK CANCERS?

- The type of treatment your doctor will recommend depends on where the cancer is in your head or neck, and if it has spread
- There are several treatment options available and your doctor will work with you to decide which is the best option for you
- HPV-related cancers are more treatable when diagnosed and treated early, so if you are worried, speak to your doctor or dentist



## WHO GETS HPV INFECTIONS?

HPV infection is very common and is easily passed between partners during sexual contact (including vaginal, anal or oral sex)

Even if you have only had one partner, you can still get HPV

Someone can have an HPV infection even if they have no symptoms and their only sexual contact with an HPV-infected person happened many years ago



If you're worried about HPV, then speak to your doctor

## CAN HPV INFECTIONS BE PREVENTED?

- There are currently three vaccines available which work to prevent HPV infections; however, they are not a cure
- Vaccines provide strong protection against certain types of new HPV infections. They do not treat an HPV infection that already exists, or a disease caused by HPV
- HPV vaccines may also protect against oral HPV infection and related head and neck cancers



## CAN HPV INFECTIONS BE DETECTED?

- There are usually no symptoms with HPV infection, therefore it is often not diagnosed
- Screening for HPV currently exists, and is important for the detection of cervical cancers. There is no screening in place for the detection of HPV-related head and neck cancers
- Another way to screen for HPV-related head and neck cancers is through an examination by your doctor or dentist



## Want to learn more about HPV?

The best place to start is with your doctor or dentist – speak to them if you are worried

There are lots of great resources and information online:

[www.makesensecampaign.eu](http://www.makesensecampaign.eu)

[www.ecpc.org](http://www.ecpc.org)



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