

**Title:**

Questioning the Evidence for HPV Vaccine as a Prevention for Cervical Cancer.

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**Abstract:**

This paper examines the evidence used to conclude HPV vaccine Gardasil® will prevent cervical cancer. The etiology of cervical cancer is believed to be multifactorial. Whilst HPV infection with one of 15 or more strains of HPV plays a role it is not sufficient to induce cervical cancer. HPV is a common infection in women but it uncommonly progresses to cancer. Other known co-factors include multiple partners and Herpes Simplex Virus 2. Incidence varies between countries. It is a low risk for Australian women. Thirty percent of cervical cancer is not associated with the two strains of HPV virus covered by the vaccine and it is almost 100% curable when detected by Pap smear screening. The clinical trials were performed on women 16 -26 yrs for four years: an age group that rarely gets cervical cancer. Efficacy was based on the prevention of pre-cancerous lesions even though thirty percent of lesions in this age group clear quickly - rarely leading to cervical cancer. Autoimmune diseases were noted as a significant adverse event in trials and Gardasil was marketed before the trials were complete. This research concludes that the risk assessment for this vaccine is incomplete and the vaccine has been promoted with therapeutic benefits before appropriate safety and efficacy data was made available.