

Evidence to allay fears over HPV vaccine

Effectiveness

U.S. clinical trials showed the following:

- 100% reduction in HPV 16/18-related cervical intraepithelial neoplasia grade 2/3 or adenocarcinoma in situ
- 97% reduction in genital warts in females.
- 89% reduction in genital warts in males after three doses.
- Data on persistence of antibody show high antibody levels beyond seven years post-immunization.

Safety

- Nearly 60 million doses of HPV vaccine have been given in the US through 2013.
- No new safety concerns in female or male HPV vaccine recipients have arisen.
- Injection site discomfort is the most common adverse event.
- Syncope is the most common safety concern. Adherence to a 15-minute observation period after vaccination should prevent significant adverse consequences due to syncope.
- No evidence for increased risk following HPV vaccine for: Guillain-Barré syndrome, seizures, stroke, venous thromboembolism, appendicitis, anaphylaxis or other allergic reactions or ovarian failure.
- No safety concerns have been identified from reports of girls who have been immunized with HPV vaccine while pregnant.