

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

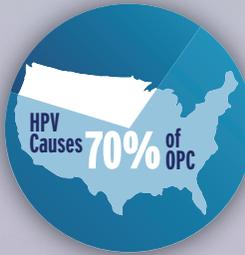
8 out of 10 people will contract the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) at some point in their lives and some will develop cancer. Everyone is at risk.



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

5

You are the key to cancer prevention.



Recommend the HPV vaccine to boys and girls ages 11 – 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



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

For More Information: aap.org/oralhealth • aap.org/hpvtoolkit • email: HPV@aap.org

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