



IGCS



INTERNATIONAL
GYNECOLOGIC
CANCER SOCIETY

POSITION STATEMENT AND ENDORSEMENT OF HPV VACCINATION

The International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS) firmly endorses the use of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination as a critical primary prevention method to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer and other HPV-related diseases.

CALL TO ACTION

In alignment with global efforts to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer, the IGCS wishes to encourage:



All countries and/or communities to implement HPV-vaccination programs tailored to resources.



All individuals within the target groups to accept and prioritize the vaccine if available.



All its members and health care workers to promote and support HPV-vaccination.



All parents to allow, enable and consent to vaccination of their children.

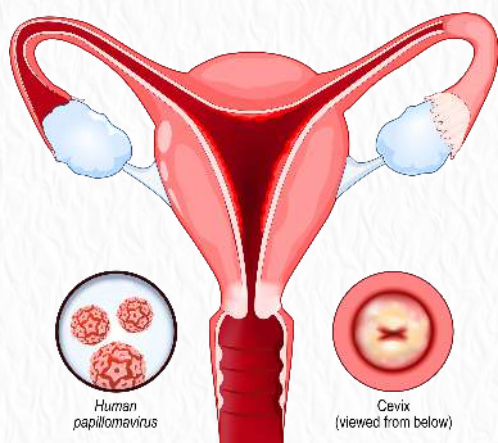
In its commitment to promote equity in health care access, and to improve efficiency of HPV-vaccine programs, the IGCS emphasizes:

The provision of HPV vaccines without cost to recommended populations in order to achieve high coverage and herd immunity.

The need for educational initiatives to increase knowledge and awareness of HPV-vaccination and overcome negative societal and cultural perceptions.

The necessity to increase efforts to overcome healthcare infrastructure challenges particularly in underserved populations in order to provide equitable access.

The value of assessing the impact of each vaccine program by the establishment of national cancer registries.



CERVICAL CANCER AND OTHER HPV-RELATED DISEASE

Cervical cancer is caused in the vast majority of cases by oncogenic types of HPV, and remains a significant public health challenge worldwide, particularly among groups with limited access to quality health care.

In addition, infection with oncogenic types of HPV is a leading or major cause of a variety of other genital and non-genital cancers, including but not limited to: vulva and vagina, anus, penis, and oropharynx.

The burden of all these diseases is further increased among populations with a high prevalence of HIV, due to the complex interaction between these two viruses.

EFFICACY AND SAFETY

HPV-vaccines provide strong protection against the virus types in the vaccine, and varying protection against non-vaccine types. All vaccines are effective to prevent HPV 16 & 18, the cause of the majority of cervical cancers and considered the most oncogenic types.

HPV-vaccines do not contain any active or inactivated virus, and therefore infection due to the vaccine is impossible. Millions of girls and boys have been vaccinated with HPV-vaccines, the safety profile intensively studied and the vaccines are firmly established as very safe.

