HPV Vaccination for Cancer Prevention



Why start at age 9?

- Higher immune response when given younger[2]
- More chances to finish the vaccine before possible HPV exposure[3]
- Easier to complete all doses by age 13[2]
- May need fewer shots at each visit if started earlier[2]
- Focuses on cancer prevention[4]
- Well-accepted by doctors, parents, and families[5,6]

But I've heard...

"Nine-year-olds are too young for the HPV vaccine." The HPV vaccine is given early to protect kids before they come into contact with the virus. The Hepatitis B vaccine, which also protects against a disease that can be spread through sexual contact, is given early for the same reason.[4]

"The vaccine won't last long enough if given at age 9." After finishing the series, protection stays strong and stable.[4]

"HPV vaccination encourages kids to have sex." Studies show it does not increase sexual activity.[3]

"The HPV vaccine is too new; we don't know enough about it." The vaccine has been around for over 15 years, and millions of doses have been safely given worldwide.[7]

"The HPV vaccine causes infertility." There's no evidence of infertility from the vaccine. In fact, it can prevent issues that could lead to infertility.[8]

"The HPV vaccine is unsafe." The vaccine went through lots of testing, and ongoing monitoring shows it's safe.[3]

"Only girls need the HPV vaccine." Boys need it too. It protects against cancers and genital warts in both boys and girls.[8]

"If you only have one partner, you don't need the vaccine." HPV spreads through skin-to-skin contact, not just sex. Even with one partner, you can still be exposed.[3]

Questions? Ask your doctor or nurse.



References:

American Medical Group Association
amga.org