

Oropharyngeal Cancer (OPC) and HPV Prevention in Children

5 Key Points that Pediatricians Need to Know

1

OPC is also known as squamous cell carcinoma of the pharynx, including the base of the tongue and tonsils.

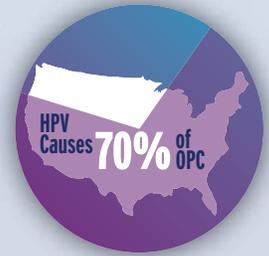
The incidence of OPC has overtaken that of cervical cancer. Pediatric health professionals have a powerful opportunity to tell families about OPC.



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.



2

OPC incidence is rapidly increasing. This cancer is hard to detect before it spreads.

Although OPC is not often seen in children, it is important for pediatricians to look in the mouth and understand how the disease can affect children as they grow into adults. Currently, middle-aged white men are at highest risk for OPC.



5

You are the key to cancer prevention.

Make a strong recommendation for adolescent vaccines, including HPV, to children ages 9 - 12. Every visit on or after the 9th birthday is an opportunity to recommend the vaccine.



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.



HPV YOU ARE THE KEY TO CANCER PREVENTION

Pediatric health professionals should talk to families about OPC and strongly recommend the HPV vaccine.

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

For More Information: aap.org/oralhealth • aap.org/immunization • email: immunize@aap.org

This factsheet is supported by the Grant or Cooperative Agreement Number, 6 NH23IP000952-04-01 and 6 NU380T000282-02-02, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services.

The recommendations in this publication do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate. This fact sheet has been developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The authors, editors, and contributors are expert authorities in the field of pediatrics. No commercial involvement of any kind has been solicited or accepted in the development of the content of this publication.

Copyright © 2021 American Academy of Pediatrics. You may download or print from our website for personal reference only. To reproduce in any form for commercial purposes, please contact the American Academy of Pediatrics.