

# 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.

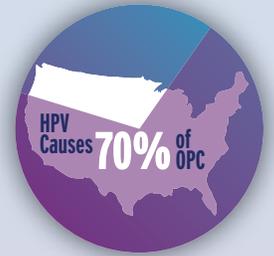
The incidence of OPC has overtaken that of cervical cancer. Pediatric health professionals have a powerful opportunity to tell families about OPC.



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 boys and girls ages 11 - 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.

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