

sex talk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

wildfact

50% of UA students have received the HPV vaccine GARDASIL®. (2013 Health & Wellness Survey, n=3,055)

Q Is it possible for men to carry HPV but for it not to affect them?

A. Yes, this is possible for *anyone* who carries the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). HPV, like many other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), can be asymptomatic (meaning no symptoms are present) even if someone is infected. In some cases, for those who have HPV, the body develops antibodies that subdue the HPV to the point where it can't be detected on tests; however the virus is still present in the body and can be passed to a sexual partner. For this reason, it is hard to tell if someone has the virus or not even if they have no signs or symptoms.

Using barrier methods such as condoms, knowing your partner(s), limiting the number of sexual partners, and avoiding sexual activity while under the influence of drugs or alcohol are all ways to reduce your risk of STIs, including HPV.

The best way to reduce your risk of HPV in particular is the highly effective GARDASIL® vaccine. It's a 3-shot series

given over a 6-month period. Since HPV is the most common STI in the United States, with over 30 sexually transmitted subtypes, it makes sense to get vaccinated. GARDASIL® protects against types 16 and 18 (which account for 70% of all cervical cancer cases) and types 6 and 11 (which cause 90% of genital warts). It will not protect against types to which people have already been exposed.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that both males and females between the ages of 11-26 get the GARDASIL® vaccine.

GARDASIL® is available at UA Campus Health. Check with your insurance provider to determine if the vaccine will be covered for you. Because insurance benefits vary between companies, each shot may be covered in full (you pay nothing) or cost up to \$157 per shot.

Call (520) 621-9202 to schedule an appointment.



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Have a question? Send it to sextalk@email.arizona.edu

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