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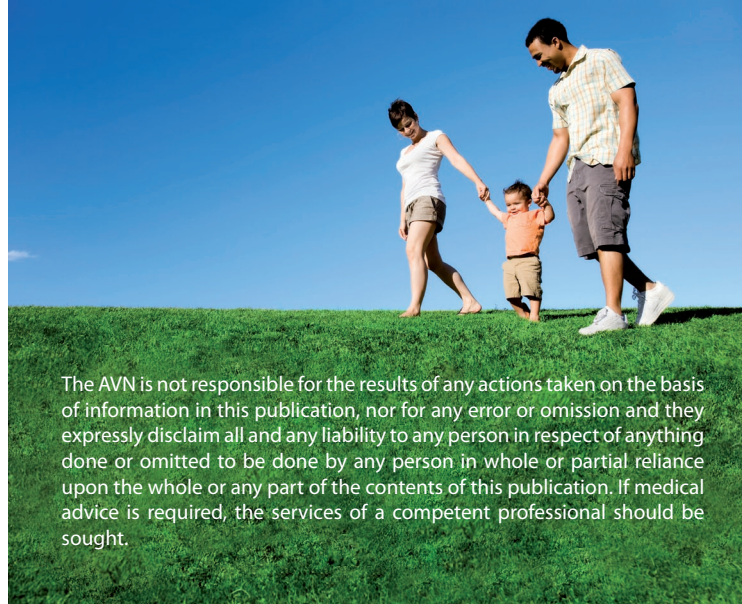
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The AVN believes it is a parent's right to choose what's best for their child. Yet governments all over the world have abridged or denied the right to free choice when it comes to vaccinations and immunisations. The Australian Vaccination Network is working to help parents take back that right to free and informed choice by allowing them to see the less publicised side of this important issue before making a decision. We urge you to speak with your doctor, clinic sister or other trusted health professional as well as accessing our information and then, make an informed choice for your own family. Vaccination is NOT compulsory in Australia and you will NOT lose any financial entitlements should you choose to not vaccinate or to vaccinate selectively. The decision to vaccinate is yours and yours alone.



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Educate Before You Vaccinate



CERVICAL CANCER / HPV

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A Fact Sheet on the Risk of Cervical Cancer and Use of Gardasil® Vaccine

Facts about the Disease

- In 2004, the death rate from cervical cancer in Australia was 1.9/100,000 women. This represents a very low risk to Australian women ¹
- Infection with **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** is not an indication you will get **cervical cancer** ¹
- **HPV** is a common infection in women (75%) but it uncommonly progresses to cancer ²
- The lifetime risk of dying from cervical cancer in a developed country like Australia is 0.25% ¹
- The Australian Health Department calls this drug an HPV vaccine **not** a cervical cancer vaccine ¹
- If the cancer is picked up early by pap screening it is almost 100% curable.² Women will still need screening even if vaccinated ¹
- Four out of five women who get cervical cancer live in developing countries ³
- Prostitutes are a high risk group for cervical cancer as lifestyle factors such as promiscuity, the number of sexual partners of the man and low social status are known risk factors for this disease ^{3,4}
- It is well documented that sexual behaviour conducive to the acquisition of sexually transmitted infectious diseases increases a women's risk of developing cervical cancer ^{1,3,4}
- Using condoms reduces the risk of cervical cancer.

Will an HPV Vaccine (Gardasil®) Protect Against Cervical Cancer?

- Many investigators acknowledge that HPV infection is not sufficient on its own to induce cervical cancer ^{2,3,4}
- Some other factor is required to trigger the development of cervical cancer even when HPV is present ^{2,3,4}
- Scientists have listed co-factors such as viruses (Herpes Simplex Virus 2), multiple sexual partners, age at first intercourse, oral contraceptives, tar-based products, immunosuppression and dietary deficiencies as 'likely to

be important' but the exact trigger for HPV infection to become cervical cancer is still unknown ^{2,3,4}

- It was observed in the study by the IARC that women infected with HPV combined with Herpes simplex virus – type 2 (HSV2) are two or three times more likely to get cervical cancer than if they are only infected with HPV ²
- Gardasil contains only 2 HPV strains – 16/18, of the 20 strains that have been associated with cervical cancer carcinomas ¹
- HPV 16/18 are stated to be associated with 70% of cervical cancer which means women are still vulnerable to infection by other HPV strains associated with cancer (30%)¹

Trials of the Vaccine

- Trials of this drug did not observe that it would prevent any cervical cancer ¹
- Researchers were observing the incidence of pre-cancerous lesions in 16-26 year old women (an age group that rarely gets cervical cancer -1.05/100,000 women in Australia) ¹
- In young women pre-cancerous lesions are known to have a high clearance rate. That is, many of them clear quickly on their own and do not always lead to cancer ¹
- Trials compared the number of pre-cancerous lesions in the vaccinated group with those in the unvaccinated group ¹
- Merck claimed this to be 100% effective against preventing cervical cancer even though they were only comparing pre-cancerous lesions in an age group that rarely gets cervical cancer and where one-third of pre-cancerous lesions do not lead to cervical cancer ¹
- Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (pharmaceutical company) funded this research at the Cancer and Immunology Research Centre at the University of Queensland ¹
- Trials of the vaccine were funded by Merck (pharmaceutical company that manufactures the vaccine) ¹
- 10 of the authors of the trials were employed by Merck and the company has financial arrangements with several of the other authors ⁵

Duration of the Vaccine

- The duration of protection from this vaccine is unknown as it has only been tested in adults for 3-4 years ¹

Other Concerns

- It is a genetically modified vaccine ^{1,5}
- It contains 225 micrograms of aluminium adjuvant. Many times more than most vaccines and known to cause allergies/anaphylaxis and autoimmune reactions in humans ⁵
- In safety trials it was found that there was 3 times the number of serious medical problems in the vaccine group than the placebo group. Including juvenile arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and arthritis. These are autoimmune diseases all of which have significantly increased in the population since vaccination use increased ⁵
- Women vaccinated 30 days before becoming pregnant had more congenital birth defects than the placebo group ⁵
- Since using HPV vaccines (2006) there have been 61 deaths and 17,500 adverse reactions (VAERS) linked to their use globally. A delegation of 6 parents is presenting this information to the FDA in America on the 12.03.10.

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