



**Daniel Lee, D.O.**  
Ob/Gyn

## **Patient Information about GARDASIL**

### **How safe is GARDASIL?**

The common side effects include pain, swelling, itching, bruising, and redness at the injection site, headache, fever, nausea, dizziness, vomiting, and fainting. Fainting can happen after getting GARDASIL. Sometimes people who faint can fall and hurt themselves. For this reason, your health care professional may ask you to sit or lie down for 15 minutes after you get GARDASIL. Some people who faint might shake or become stiff. This may require evaluation or treatment by your health care professional.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the FDA have reviewed all the safety information available to them. Based on data available to them as of May 2009, the CDC and FDA determined that GARDASIL continues to be safe and effective, and its benefits continue to outweigh its risks. In August 2009, the CDC reaffirmed its continued recommendation for vaccination with GARDASIL in females. In October 2009, the FDA approved the use of GARDASIL in boys and young men ages 9 to 26 to protect against 90% of genital warts cases.

For more information on GARDASIL, talk to your doctor or health care professional.

### **Does HPV affect males and females?**

Yes. Both men and women can get HPV and pass it on without even realizing it. HPV will affect an estimated 75% to 80% of males and females in their lifetime. For most, HPV clears on its own. But, for others, certain HPV diseases—such as cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers and genital warts—can develop. There is no way to predict who will or won't clear the virus.

### **Is GARDASIL only for girls and young women?**

No. GARDASIL was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in boys and young men ages 9 to 26 to help protect against 90% of genital warts cases.

GARDASIL may not fully protect everyone, nor will it protect against diseases caused by other HPV types or against diseases not caused by HPV.

### **What do medical organizations say about HPV vaccination?**

The CDC recommends routine vaccination with GARDASIL for girls ages 11 to 12, and for young women ages 13 through 26 who have not already been vaccinated.

The CDC states that GARDASIL can be given to boys and young men ages 9 through 26, if you and the doctor decide it's right for your son.

Additional recommendations for females include:

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
- American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

**Could I get HPV or any disease caused by HPV from GARDASIL?**

No. You cannot get HPV or any disease caused by HPV from GARDASIL. That's because there is no live virus in the vaccine.

Instead, GARDASIL contains a protein that helps the body's immune system produce antibodies against HPV—without causing an infection.

**Why should I be concerned about genital warts?**

It is estimated that each minute in the United States, there is a new case of genital warts. About 2 out of 3 people will get genital warts after having any kind of genital contact with someone infected. Treatment for genital warts can be a painful process and can involve cutting, freezing, or burning the warts. Even after treatment, genital warts can come back. In fact, 25% of cases come back within 3 months.

By getting vaccinated with GARDASIL you'll help guard yourself against 90% of genital warts cases.

GARDASIL may not fully protect everyone, nor will it protect against diseases caused by other HPV types or against diseases not caused by HPV.

**If I'm already sexually active, is it too late for me to get vaccinated?**

No, it still may make sense. Only your doctor or health care professional can tell you if GARDASIL is right for you. But, if you're already sexually active, you may still benefit from GARDASIL. That's because even if you have been exposed to HPV, you may not have been exposed to the types of the virus covered by GARDASIL. GARDASIL could still help protect you against the relevant HPV types to which you haven't been exposed.

**What if I can't afford GARDASIL?**

Merck has created a vaccine patient assistance program for its line of vaccines for use in adults, including GARDASIL. Through this program, Merck provides free vaccines to adults who are 19 and older who are uninsured or unable to afford vaccines.

Additional information regarding the Merck Vaccine Patient Assistance Program can be found at <http://www.merck.com/merckhelps/vaccines/home.html>.

GARDASIL is also part of the Vaccines for Children Program, a federal program that helps to provide free vaccines to children and adolescents 18 years and younger who are either Medicaid

eligible, American Indian or Alaskan Native, or uninsured, or whose health insurance does not cover shots.

Additional information regarding the Vaccines for Children Program can be found at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfcBy](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfcBy) clicking on this link, you will be leaving this site. This link will take you to a site outside of Merck & Co., Inc. Merck does not review or control the content of any non-Merck site. Merck does not endorse and is not responsible for the accuracy, content, practices, or standards of any non-Merck site.

### **Do I need to get all 3 doses of GARDASIL from the same doctor?**

You don't need to get all 3 doses of GARDASIL from the same doctor. But make sure you let your doctor know if you have been previously vaccinated with GARDASIL and how many doses you received. You do need to follow the vaccination schedule to get the benefits of GARDASIL.

If you think e-mail and mail reminders will help you get your next 2 doses on time, we can help.

### **What if I'm late getting my second or third dose of GARDASIL?**

Ideally, your vaccination schedule should be:

First dose: at a date you and your doctor or health care professional choose.

Second dose: 2 months after the first dose.

Third dose: 6 months after the first dose.

Make sure you get all 3 doses on time so that you get the best protection.

If you're a few days late getting your second or third dose of GARDASIL, don't panic. If you miss a dose, your doctor or health care professional will decide when to give the missed dose.

One way to make sure you're on time for your second and third doses is to make your follow-up appointments before you even leave your doctor's office. If you think e-mail or mail reminders will help you get your next 2 doses on time, we can help.

### **Do women who get vaccinated still need to get Pap tests?**

Yes. Vaccination with GARDASIL does not take the place of Pap tests. A Pap test, also known as a Pap smear, is part of the gynecological exam and helps detect abnormal cells in the lining of the cervix before they have a chance to become pre-cancers or cervical cancer.

See Full Glossary (cervical cancer screenings). Women should always follow their doctor or health care professional's advice on getting Pap tests.

Pap tests have been proven to help save lives. A Pap test looks for abnormal cells in the lining of the cervix before they have the chance to become pre-cancers or cervical cancer.

And since GARDASIL does not protect against all types of HPV, Pap tests will still be an important part of taking control of your health—and taking care of yourself.

**What does the Christian Medical Association say about this vaccine?**

Some may be interested in the Christian Medical Association's opinion on this matter: "The Christian Medical & Dental Associations support the development and administration of vaccines intended to lessen the incidence and consequences of sexually transmitted diseases. We are encouraged by current research indicating that vaccines against certain strains of human papilloma virus will reduce the incidence of cervical cancer and genital warts."