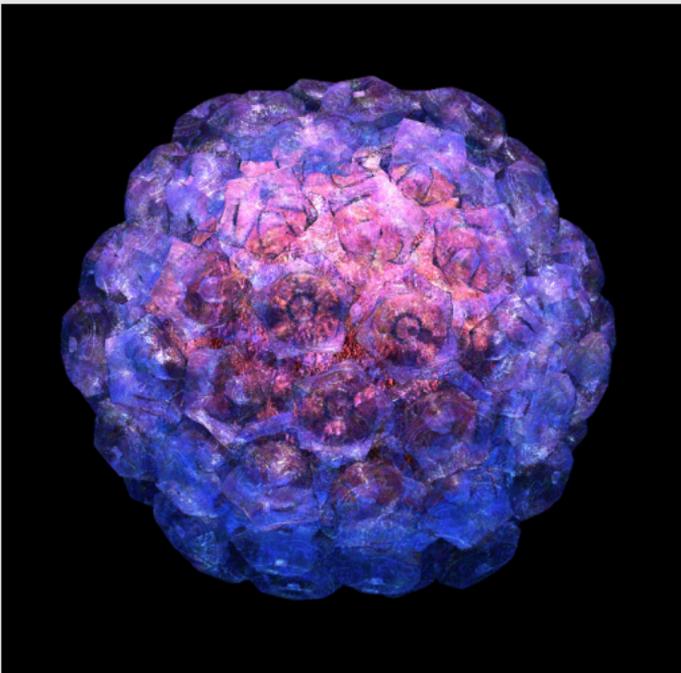


HPV



HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS

 **maple leaf** medical clinic

WHAT IS HPV?

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI). There are more than 40 HPV types that can infect the genital areas of males and females. *Four of these have been shown to cause most cervical cancers.*

Most people who become infected with HPV *do not even know they have it.*

DID YOU KNOW...

HPV is so common that at least 50% of sexually active men and women get it at some point in their lives.

HPV is the most common STI.

Each year, about 12,000 women get cervical cancer in the U.S. Certain populations are at higher risk for some HPV-related health problems. This includes gay and bisexual men, and people with weak immune systems (including those who have HIV/AIDS).

WHO GETS HPV?

HPV is passed on most often during vaginal or anal sex. It may also be passed on during oral sex and genital-to-genital contact.

A person can acquire HPV even if years have passed since he or she had sexual contact with an infected person. Most infected persons do not realize they are infected or that they are passing the virus on to a sex partner. It is also possible to get more than one type of HPV.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF AN HPV INFECTION?

Most people with HPV do not develop symptoms or health problems from it.

HPV is the cause of genital warts in males and females.

Some HPV types can cause cervical cancer. These types can also cause other, less common but serious cancers, including cancers of the vulva, vagina, penis, anus, and head and neck.

The types of HPV that can cause genital warts are not the same as the types that can cause cancer. There is no way to know which people who get HPV will go on to develop cancer or other health problems.

SYMPTOMS AND RELATED DISEASES

GENITAL WARTS

Genital warts usually appear as a small bump or groups of bumps in the genital area. They can be small or large, raised or flat, or shaped like a cauliflower. Health care providers can diagnose warts by looking at the genital area during an office visit. Warts can appear within weeks or months after sexual contact with an infected partner—even if the infected partner has no signs of genital warts. If left untreated, genital warts might go away, remain unchanged, or increase in size or number.

CERVICAL CANCER

Cervical cancer usually does not have symptoms until it is quite advanced. For this reason, it is important for women to get regular screening for cervical cancer. Screening tests (ie. a Pap smear) can find early signs of disease so that problems can be treated early, before they ever turn into cancer.

HOW CAN HPV INFECTION BE PREVENTED?

Condoms may lower the risk of getting HPV. To be most effective, they should be used with every sex act, from start to finish. However, HPV can infect areas that are not covered by a condom — so condoms may not fully protect against HPV.

People can also lower their chances of getting HPV by being in a faithful relationship with one partner; limiting their number of sex partners; and choosing a partner who has had no or few prior sex partners. But even people with only one lifetime sex partner can get HPV.

IS THERE TREATMENT FOR HPV OR RELATED DISEASES?

There is no treatment for the virus itself. However, there are treatments for the diseases the HPV can cause.

Visible genital warts can be treated by a health care provider. Some people choose not to treat warts, but to see if they disappear on their own.

Cervical cancer is most treatable when it is diagnosed and treated early. But women who get routine Pap tests and follow up as needed can identify problems before cancer develops.

ABOUT MAPLE LEAF MEDICAL CLINIC

Maple Leaf Medical Clinic (MLMC)
is dedicated to serving the local community
and those living with HIV. Please follow-up
with your doctor for more information.



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