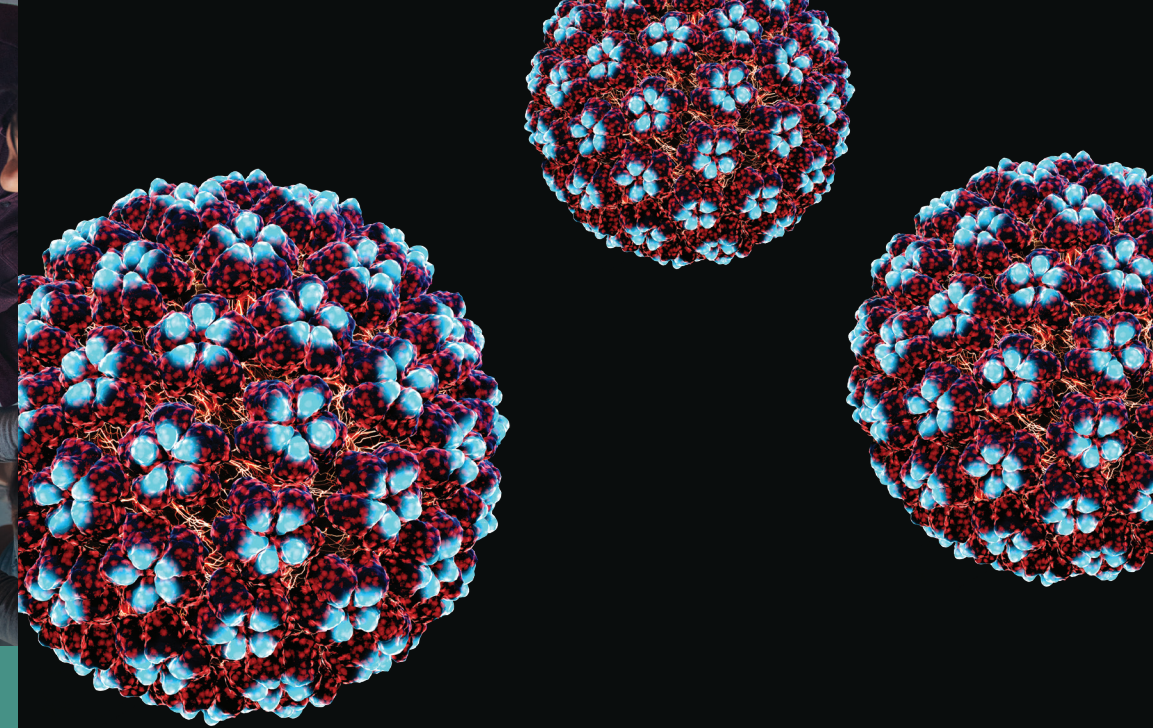




GET THE FACTS

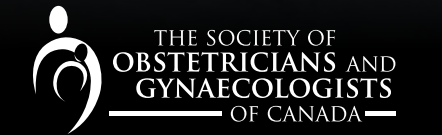


THE HUMAN PAPILOMAVIRUS (HPV)

WHAT IS HPV?

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a highly contagious virus and the most common sexually transmitted infection in the world.

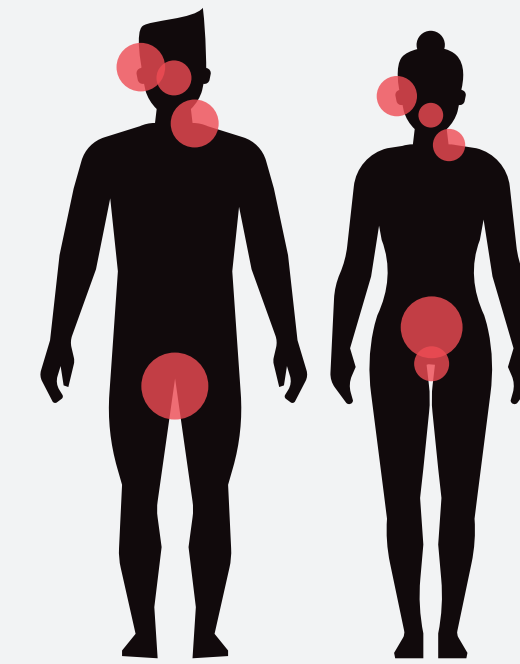
There are almost 200 known types of HPV with at least 40 that cause genital and oral warts and cancers. There are at least 15 types of HPV that cause cancer.



WHO IS AT RISK?

Anyone who has been sexually active is at risk for HPV and its complications. The highest rates of HPV infection are in young people aged 15 to 24.

About 75% of Canadians will have at least one HPV infection in their lifetime.



HPV AND CANCER

HPV has been linked to cancer of the cervix, vulva, vagina, penis, anus, mouth and throat.



IS THERE A CURE?

There is no cure for the virus once you are infected. There are treatments for the genital warts and cell changes caused by the virus, but these do not cure the virus itself.



PROTECT YOURSELF

The HPV vaccine is the best way to protect yourself. You can further reduce your risk by limiting your number of sexual partners, using a condom every time you have sex, and visiting your doctor regularly for Pap tests or HPV screening.



DID YOU KNOW?

The HPV vaccine is a safe and effective way to prevent the HPV types that are responsible for most genital and oral warts and HPV-related cancers.



Visit HPVinfo.ca to learn more

This pamphlet is made possible through the support of Merck Canada Inc. The opinions expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Merck Canada Inc.