

A Lifetime of Care

Ask Dr. Fennimore



Irina Fennimore, MD

Should I get the HPV vaccine?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a virus that causes cervical cancer and genital warts. Persistent infection with certain types of HPV can lead to cancer of the cervix, which affects more than 10,000 American women every year.

There are more than 100 different types of HPV! More than 40 are known to infect the cervix; about 15 are known to cause cervical cancer.

Researchers label HPV types as high or low risk for causing cervical cancer. HPV types 6 and 11 cause about 90 percent of genital warts cases. These are low risk because they do not cause cervical cancer. Types 16 and 18 are high risk, causing about 70 percent of cervical cancer cases.

For protection, we have two HPV vaccines. One (Gardasil) helps prevent infection with four HPV types (6, 11, 16 and 18). The other (Cervarix) prevents infection with HPV types 16 and 18, and may offer some protection against high-risk HPV types 45 and 31.

In this country, doctors recommend the HPV vaccine for all girls and women between ages 9 and 26, before they are sexually active, to ensure they are protected before being exposed to HPV. Our goal is to greatly reduce the number of women who develop cervical cancer and pre-cancer.

Our practice cares for women of every age, and all of our doctors welcome new patients. We invite you to call (513) 221-3800 for an appointment to talk about which vaccine is right for you. We look forward to helping you to better health.

Depend on us for the finest obstetric and gynecologic care to support you at every age.

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Two convenient locations!

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