

HPV Vaccine – Gardasil 9 Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is HPV 9 vaccine – Gardasil 9?

HPV vaccine – Gardasil 9 is preventive vaccine against cervical cancer as well as other HPV-related cancers or diseases such as cervical, vulvar, vaginal, anal cancers and genital warts caused by 9 types of HPV (Type 6,11,16,18,31,33,45,52 and 58).

2. Who can get HPV 9 vaccine (Gardasil 9)?

Gardasil 9 is registered in Hong Kong with recommended age for both female and male aged 9 years or above. This vaccine should only be used after the registered doctor's assessment.

3. How effective is HPV vaccine?

HPV vaccine works best when it is given before sexual activity begins (and before any exposure to HPV). The HPV 9 vaccines generally prevent over 90% of cervical cancer/vaginal cancer/genital warts caused by its covered HPV types.

4. Can I receive HPV vaccine if I am pregnant?

HPV vaccine is NOT recommended for pregnant women.

5. How many doses of HPV 9 vaccine are needed?

For age 9 to 14, 2 doses are required. The second dose is injected 6-12 months after the first dose.

For age 15 or over, 3 doses are needed with the injection schedule at 0, 2 months, and 6 months.

6. Are there any side effects from HPV vaccine?

HPV vaccines are generally safe. Common side effects are similar to those from other vaccinations, such as soreness and swelling at the injection site, fever, headache and nausea. The vaccines are not recommended for those who have had allergic reactions to any component of HPV vaccines. If in doubt, please consult your doctor for further advice.

7. Do I still need cervical cancer screening after HPV vaccination?

Yes, women who have received HPV vaccination still need regular cervical cancer screening because HPV vaccination does not protect against infection by the HPV types that are not found in the vaccines, nor can clear the virus in those who have already been infected.

8. Who are not suitable to receive HPV 9 vaccines?

- Aged 8 or below
- Have a fever
- Pregnant or breast-feeding
- Hypersensitive to any vaccine ingredients
- Have immune problems or are taking medication that affects your immune system