

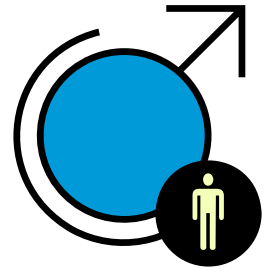


District Health Department #10
Family Planning

Men and HPV

What is HPV?

HPV stands for Human Papillomavirus which is a group of more than 100 different strains of virus, 30 of which are sexually transmitted. Genital HPV is a sexually transmitted disease that can affect both men and women. It is transmitted through genital or anal contact. In men, the skin of the penis, anus or the lining of the rectum are the most commonly infected areas. At least 50% of sexually active men and women acquire this infection at some point in their lives.



What are the symptoms of HPV in men?

Most men who get HPV show no symptoms. However, in some cases, depending on the type of HPV, genital warts may appear. Genital warts are classified as one or more warts in the genital area. These warts may be flat, raised or in clusters. Warts may appear within weeks or months after coming in contact with an infected person. In men, warts generally appear around the anus, penis, scrotum, and groin or thigh area.

Is HPV treatable?

There is no treatment for HPV. There are ways to treat the conditions associated with HPV; however, it is not known whether that treatment reduces the chances of passing the virus to other sex partners. Visible genital warts are able to be removed through the use of medication or surgery. In some cases the warts will disappear on their own.

What if I don't get treated?

The majority of men will not develop any serious health problems from HPV, however, certain types of HPV have been linked to cancer of the penis and anus in men. Men also need to be aware that they can unknowingly transmit HPV to their sexual partners and if that sexual partner is a woman she has a much greater risk of developing disease from the HPV.



How can I prevent HPV?

The only 100% sure way to prevent getting any STD, including HPV, is to abstain from having sexual intercourse. You can also lower your risk of getting the disease by limiting your number of sexual partners or having only one sexual partner who you are sure is not infected. Condoms may provide some but not complete protection against HPV because of the fact that surrounding skin that is not covered by the condom may be infected.

Materials funded in part by a Federal Title X program.

For more information please visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website, <http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/default.htm>