

Vaccine in short for the **HPV vaccine (Cervarix)**

What is this vaccine for?

This vaccine protects against **2 types of human papillomavirus (HPV)**: types 16 and 18. You can become infected with HPV during sexual activity and intimate contact. 80% of people will be infected with HPV at some point in their lives. A persistent HPV infection that does not clear on its own can lead to cancer.

An HPV infection can lead to several types of cancer:

- Of the cervix.
- In the mouth and throat.
- At the anus.
- At the vagina.
- Of the labia.
- Of the penis.

Cancer caused by HPV can sometimes be fatal.

How does this vaccine work?



If you come into contact with HPV after vaccination, your body recognises this virus. Your body will already have produced antibodies that protect you against this virus. These antibodies remain in your blood for a long time.

The HPV vaccine protects against HPV types 16 and 18. According to the RIVM, these two types cause approximately 77% of all cases of cervical cancer.

The HPV vaccine also protects against HPV types 31, 33 and 45, which can also cause cancer.

RIVM research shows that the HPV vaccine reduces the risk of cervical cancer in women by 90%. This means that out of 100 women who would have developed cervical cancer without vaccination, 90 women will not develop cervical cancer after vaccination. The research also shows that the HPV vaccine reduces the risk of pre-cancerous abnormalities by 80%.

The HPV vaccine works best against an HPV infection if you have not previously been in contact with HPV. The injection is therefore given at a young age.

Most important warnings



If you have a **fever** before receiving the vaccination, you may become even more unwell. The RIVM advises you to make a new appointment for the vaccination if you have a fever above 38.5°C.



If you have a **mild infection**, such as a cold, discuss with your doctor whether you should make a new appointment for the vaccination.

When will I receive this vaccine?

In the National Immunisation Programme, you can receive this vaccine in the year you turn 10. The RIVM will send an invitation to receive the vaccine.



Within the National Immunisation Programme, you receive this vaccination **twice**. You receive the second vaccination 6 months after the first vaccination.



The injection is given in the upper arm.

This vaccination is part of the **National Immunisation Programme**.

This is a government programme designed to protect people against infectious diseases. Vaccinations that are part of the National Immunisation Programme are free of charge.

What should I do if I have not received the vaccination?



If you have **missed** the appointment for the vaccination, make a new appointment as soon as possible.

Most important side effects

As with other vaccines, you may experience side effects. This is because the vaccine activates your immune system. The immune system protects against HPV.

Approximately 1 in 10 people may experience:

- Pain, redness or swelling at the injection site.
- Headache or muscle pain.
- Fatigue.

Approximately 1 in 100 people may experience:

- Fever or joint pain.
- Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or diarrhoea.
- Rash, lumps or itching.

All listed side effects usually last 1 to 3 days.

More information

If you have any further questions or concerns about vaccination, discuss them with the child health doctor, your doctor or a pharmacist.

For the official package leaflet, see ema.europa.eu. For more information, you can also visit apotheek.nl, thuisarts.nl or rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/en. If you would like to report a side effect, or learn more about side effects, you can do so via lareb.nl/en.