

## VACcept Survey Study

Survey study to understand the knowledge and acceptability of HPV vaccination to women aged 30 to 45 years and eligible for cervical screening.

We would like to find out what women know about Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and what they feel about HPV vaccination.

We would like to invite you to take part in our research. We ask that you complete our online survey soon after having your smear test. It will take approximately 10 minutes.

The responses you provide will be added to those of women from 10 other European countries.

*What will I have to do if I take part?*

### Why have you been invited to complete the survey?

... because you are aged 30 to 45 years old and attending your General Practice for a routine cervical smear test.

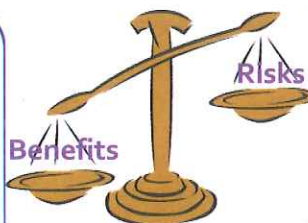
### Do I have to take part?

... it is up to you. Whether you complete the survey or not will have no affect on the standard of care you receive. If you have any questions the research team's details are at the bottom of this information page.



### What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The information you provide will help us to find answers on how best to use HPV vaccines, and this may benefit many women worldwide.



### What are the risks of taking part?

There are no significant risks involved in returning your survey.

Your response to our survey is **anonymous**. We will not ask you for your name or address. We do ask a little bit about you and smear tests and your views and understanding of HPV and the HPV vaccine.

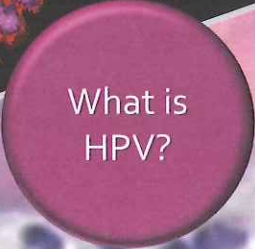


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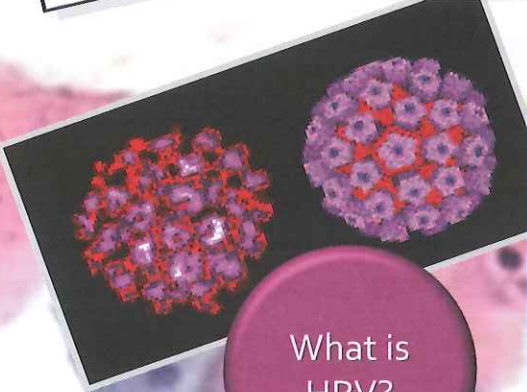


## Why are we doing this project?

The cervical smear test has been used successfully for many years to prevent cervical cancer. However, cervical cancer still affects a significant number of women, particularly where they cannot get or do not have a smear test.




## What is HPV?



HPV, or Human Papillomavirus, is a family of viruses and a small number of them (around 15 types) can cause nearly all cervical cancer. We call these high-risk HPV types. It is very common to have HPV but for most people their body is able to deal with it. However, not everyone's body can deal with it and over time it can cause abnormal areas on the cervix which might develop into cancer if they are not treated.

We now have **vaccines** to protect against catching two types of HPV that can cause cancer: HPV16 and HPV18. These vaccines work best if given before any sexual activity has ever taken place and the person is therefore unlikely to have HPV16 or HPV18. In the UK there is an HPV vaccination programme where 12 and 13 year old girls can be vaccinated in school. Older women cannot get the vaccine on the NHS.

Some countries offer the vaccine to older women in case they have not already had HPV16 and HPV18. If this is the case, the vaccine will protect them against HPV16 and HPV18. However, not all women offered the vaccine choose to have it. In our study we aim to get a better understanding of why women would or would not choose to have the vaccine.



## What will happen to the results of the study?

The information we collect will be added to similar information collected in 10 other countries as part of the project "Comparing health services interventions for the prevention of HPV-related cancer – CoheaHr". It will then be published and presented at international meetings.

We also hope to use what we learn to set up a clinical trial offering HPV vaccination to women attending for cervical screening.

## Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is organised by the Centre for Cancer Prevention, Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine, Queen Mary University of London.

This study will be funded from Cancer Prevention **Cancer Research UK**  
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