

Important Facts About Cervical Cancer by Dr. Robin Matthews, Haywood Women's Medical Center

By Janet Oppenheimer | Jan 18, 2013

Share



Robin Matthews, MD, FACOG, is with Haywood Women's Medical Center at MedWest-Haywood in Clyde, NC and is a member of the Western Carolina Medical Society.

Important Facts About Cervical Cancer

Recommended vaccines start by age 11 in girls

In the U.S. alone, this year, almost 13,000 cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed, with over 4,000 deaths due to this tragic and preventable cancer. An effective HPV vaccination program can greatly reduce the rates of cervical cancer in this country.

In recent months, the news has featured stories about a vaccine called Gardasil that was approved several years ago by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for prevention of disease caused by HPV (clinical name is human papilloma virus). Gardasil is recently approved for boys and girls alike. The FDA has recently licensed a second vaccine, Cervarix, and both are shown to effectively prevent HPV infection.

Studies have shown that both vaccines are nearly 100% effective in protecting females who have not already been exposed to the covered types of HPV. HPV infection is quite prevalent in the population, and is sexually

transmitted. There are many subtypes of HPV; the most common being types 6, 11, 16 and 18. Types 6 and 11 are more commonly associated with genital warts. Types 16 and 18 are responsible for the vast majority of cervical cancers.

Vaccination before the onset of sexual activity most effectively prevents cervical cancer later in life. The Center for Disease Control recommends that girls age 11 and 12 receive the HPV vaccination, with a catch-up vaccination recommended for girls and women age 13-26. Girls as young as 9 years old can be safely vaccinated. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) supports these recommendations. Certainly girls younger than 12 or 13 may not completely comprehend the facts and recommendations behind the vaccine, but this may also be true for a host of other recommended vaccines.

HPV vaccination is safe. Although any vaccine can pose a risk, the Food and Drug Administration and the Center for Disease Control have extensively studied these vaccines, and have concluded that they are both safe and effective. Research by the Institute of Medicine found no links between immunization and some serious conditions that have raised concerns, including diabetes and autism. The vaccines do not cover every strain of HPV, and patients should still have regular screening pap smears.

ACOG represents 56,000 OBGYNs and partners in women's health, and places women's health first. Facts are very important, especially when debating the health of women and girls. For further understanding of this and other important issues concerning women's health, contact your OBGYN, or visit the ACOG website at acog.org

biz/orgOffers

NEW TODAY!!!!

By Maria's Mexican Pueblo - Jan 18

DON'T LET IT SNOW!!

By Maria's Mexican Pueblo - Jan 17

GOOD FRIDAY!!

By Maria's Mexican Pueblo - Jan 18

Thursday lunch special

By Maria's Mexican Pueblo - Jan 17

SOMETHING NEW THIS ...

By Maria's Mexican Pueblo - Jan 17

[MORE »](#)



303 SOUTH MAIN STREET
WAYNESVILLE NC
828.452.1313



Get daily headlines from The Mountaineer delivered to your in-box!



Real Estate



Waynesville | \$350,000
Luxury Golf Course Living!

Luxury Golf Course Living At It's Best! Upscale 3Bedroom,...

[More Details »](#)



Waynesville | \$160,000
Wonderful Neighborhood

Wonderful neighborhood with convenience to town and ...

[More Details »](#)



Waynesville | \$399,000
Commercial on Main Street in Waynesville

3 level, commercial building with street front on North ...

[More Details »](#)



Clyde | \$149,900
Cozy Clyde Cottage

You must see this adorable home. Renovated and in great ...

[More Details »](#)

MusicWorks!
Studio of Performing Arts



Drama • Dance • Music
Classes for all ages!

9 Forge Plaza Loop, Waynesville, NC 28786 • 828-456-ACT3 (2283)
www.performwithmusicworks.com