

Implications of HPV in Oropharyngeal Carcinoma

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HPV is a part of papova virus family which is known to infect epithelial tissues. HPV is the most commonly sexually transmitted infection. More than 150 types of HPV are currently known and approximately 120 types are fully sequenced. High-risk HPV 16 and 18 can be found in cancer cervix, penile carcinoma and oropharyngeal carcinoma.

Risk Factors: The greater number of sexual partners, the more likely patients have a genital HPV. When engaging in oral sex, this increase risk. Having sex with a partner who has had multiple sex partners increase the risk.

Transmission: HPV is passed on through skin to skin genital contact, most often during vaginal, anal and oral sex.

Treatment: There is no cure for the virus. Most of the time, HPV goes away by itself within two years and does not cause health problems. It is only when HPV stays in the body for many years, usually decades that it might cause oral cancers.

Vaccination: Two vaccines known as Gardasil and Cervarix protect against the strains of HPV that cause oropharyngeal cancers (HPV I6 and 18)

HPV in Oropharyngeal Carcinoma: In 2012, the International Agency of Research of Cancer (IARC) declared that there was sufficient evidence to associate a subtype of HPV 16 with oropharyngeal cancer. Approximately 20% of oral cancer and 60-80% of oropharyngeal cancer were thought to be attributable to HPV. HPV-positive oral cancers differ from HPV- negative oral cancers in their clinical response and overall survival rates.

Conclusion: The association of HPV and oropharyngeal carcinoma have been proved worldwide. HPV 16 is the most common subtype implicated in oropharyngeal carcinoma. Approximately 20% of oral cancer and 60-80% of oropharyngeal cancer were thought to be attributable to HPV.

Biography:

Dr. Alaa Eldin Elfeky is a professor of Otorhinolaryngology & Head and Neck Surgery, faculty of medicine, Zagazig University. He is also the president of Delta Society of Otorhinolaryngology, Egypt & an International Member of American Academy of ORL-HNS, founder and senior of Cochlear Implant Unit, Zagazig University. He is also the founder and senior for Head & Neck Surgery Unit, Zagazig University.