

# Kidney Transplant and Cancer Prevention

## How will a kidney transplant affect my cancer risk?

After your kidney transplant, you will begin taking medications which may help your body from “fighting off” the new kidney but will lower your immune system as a side effect. These medications can also make it harder for your body to fight off other infections, including viruses like human papillomavirus (HPV).

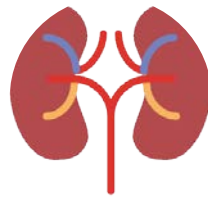
**Transplant recipients are at a higher risk of developing cancers due to HPV, including cervical, vulvar, vaginal, penile, anal and throat cancers.**

## Am I at risk of becoming infected with HPV?

Nearly all sexually active men and women will be exposed to HPV in their lifetime and most people do not realize they are infected. While most HPV infections go away on their own, sometimes they can persist in the body for years and **reactivate** when the immune system is lowered, such as when taking anti-rejection medications after an organ transplant.

## How will the HPV Vaccine reduce my cancer risk?

To prevent the types of HPV infection most commonly associated with cancer, an HPV vaccine (Gardasil® 9) is licensed for individuals ages 9-45. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the HPV vaccine for people with lowered immune systems, such as individuals undergoing a kidney transplant. It is a very safe vaccine that does not contain the living virus, and has very mild side effects.



## Where can I find more information?

**Information about this clinical trial:**

<http://bit.ly/Gardasil-study>

**HPV Vaccine Safety, From the CDC**

<http://bit.ly/2DiB8Pt>

**HPV and Cancer**

From the National Cancer Institute

<http://bit.ly/2PIVyy6>