

Cervical Cancer Vaccine Available

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Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women around the world, and is caused by genital HPV (human papillomavirus). However, HPV vaccine is now available that can protect against most cases of cervical cancer and most genital warts.

“There are about 40 types of HPV,” said Andrea Zoodsma RN, Visiting Nurse Association Community Services program manager. “Most HPV infections go away on their own, but every year in the U.S., about 10,000 women get cervical cancer and 3,700 die from it. That’s why the HPV vaccine is so important.”

It is important for girls to get HPV vaccine before their first sexual contact, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For these girls, the vaccine can prevent almost 100% of disease caused by the four types of HPV targeted by the vaccine.

The vaccine, available from local physicians, the Public Health Department and the VNA, is given in a three-dose series and may be given at the same time as other vaccines. For more information or to schedule an appointment for the vaccine, call the VNA Immunization Services Information Line, 648-3777.

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