



MINISTERO
DELL'INTERNO

Human Papilloma Viruses (HPV)

Human papilloma viruses (HPV) form a widespread group of viruses: over 120 serotypes are known, of which more than 40 can trigger infections of the genital mucous membranes (mainly by the cervix and vagina), the anus and even the oropharynx (the innermost part of the mouth). Since transmission of these viruses can also occur through genital contacts short of penetration, use of a condom does not totally exclude the risk of contracting the infection.

Some serotypes (e.g. 6 and 11) are responsible for genital warts, painful benign lesions, flat or warty-type (*condyloma acuminata* or cockscombs), localised, in both men and women, at the genital and/or anal level. Other serotypes (e.g. 16 and 18) can cause alterations of the genital, anal and oropharynx mucous membranes, which, if persistent and left untreated, can evolve into tumours over many years. HPV are responsible for all cervical cancers and for a percentage of those affecting anus, vagina, penis, vulva and oropharynx.

Although HPV infection is very frequent, in most instances it is temporary and retreats spontaneously without causing illness. When the infection evolves into a disease, it is possible to intervene with effective therapies.

To date, however, there are no treatments capable of conclusively eliminating the viruses from the body.

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SEARCH FOR HPV

THE EMILIA-ROMAGNA REGION GUARANTEES FREE VACCINATION TO GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN AGED 12 TO 26, BOYS AGED 12 TO 18, HIV POSITIVE PEOPLE, MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH OTHER MEN (MSM), SEX WORKERS, THOSE WHO NEED TO TAKE IMMUNOMODULATORS OR IMMUNOSUPPRESSANTS AND WOMEN WHO RECENTLY UNDERWENT TREATMENTS FOR HPV-RELATED LESIONS.

THOSE WHO DO NOT FALL UNDER THESE CATEGORIES CAN ACCESS VACCINATION WITH CO-PAYMENT OF CHARGES AT THE VACCINE CENTRES OF LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES (USL).

FURTHERMORE, SINCE 1996 THE EMILIA-ROMAGNA REGION HAS BEEN ACTIVELY AND GRATUITOUSLY OFFERING THE SCREENING PROGRAM TO WOMEN AGED 25 TO 64 TO PREVENT CERVICAL CARCINOMA. CURRENTLY, WOMEN AGED 25 TO 29 ARE OFFERED THE PAP TEST EVERY 3 YEARS, AND WOMEN AGED 30 TO 64 THE HPV TEST EVERY 5 YEARS.

