

Will the HPV vaccine make a difference for HIV+ women?

We are conducting a research study investigating the safety and effectiveness of giving the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine Gardasil to women age 18 years and older who are infected with HIV.



WHAT IS HPV?

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus known to have about 30 different types that infect the genital area. It is spread through close skin and/or sexual contact.

It is believed that due to a decrease in immune function (the cells and substances in the body that protect the body from infection), HIV-positive women are known to have higher rates of HPV infection, and a more rapid progression to cervical cancer. In addition, HIV-positive women with HPV can suffer from severe cases of genital warts that are very difficult to treat.

The Gardasil vaccine protects against four types of HPV: two of these types are associated with genital warts while the other two are the high-risk, cancer-causing HPV types. Although many women over the age of 20 will already have been exposed to HPV at least once, very few have been infected with all four of the types in the vaccine. Gardasil has the potential to prevent new HPV infections. Previous studies of Gardasil have shown effective protection against these types of HPV in HIV.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HIV+ WOMEN, WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED THE GARDASIL VACCINE.

Participants cannot be pregnant or lactating and not planning to get pregnant within the first six months of the study. The study will be eight (8) visits over a 27-month period.

Participants will receive three injections containing 0.5 ml of the Gardasil HPV vaccine. The first injection will be given at the second clinic visit with additional injections 2 and 6 months later. The study is looking to recruit 500 girls and women at 16 sites across Canada.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY CALL DR MONA LOUPEY AT 416-465-5370 EXT. 1

