

Does the HPV Vaccine Cause Infertility?

By Heather Simpson,
Back to the Vax

Before I was even anti-vaccine, I heard the rumors constantly— “Whatever you do, do not get the HPV vaccine, you will end up infertile.”

Much later on, when I became pro-vaccine and intended to vaccinate my child, I always held the HPV shot as an exception. I internalized those rumors. I met women who swore the HPV vaccine made them infertile. I couldn't and wouldn't risk it. There was not even a chance I was going to vaccinate my children against HPV.

The rumor that this shot causes infertility originates from several Facebook posts that went viral—all claiming that the vaccine causes premature menopause, or Primary Ovarian Insufficiency (POI). However, a study of close to 59,000 girls who received the vaccine showed only one who later developed possible symptoms of POI. Out of 59,000 (Aug 21 Journal Pediatrics). The study's lead author, Allison Naleway, said that she would have expected to see more of an increase in POI cases if there was a link, but they simply found no elevated risk for these girls.

What speaks to me the most, though, is the thought of my daughter contracting HPV and subsequently developing cancers. Cancer is a realistic, evidence-based concern if she was not protected by the vaccine; rather than the completely unsubstantiated infertility risk.



IKC's HPV Toolkit



Learn about the importance
of vaccinating against HPV.

You know what absolutely is linked to infertility? **HPV cancers**. The fact that they can cause issues with having children is unquestioned in the medical world.

1 in 59,000 girls **HINTED** at possible symptoms of POI-meaning it wasn't even a for sure thing. Do you know what the lifetime odds of getting struck by lightning are?

1 in 15,300.



You are **about 4 times as likely to get struck by actual lightning** than to be the girl in the study who possibly had symptoms of diminished ovarian reserve.

You can safely and confidently put the infertility rumor to rest. It was scary and was one of the hardest rumors for me to overcome, but it's worth putting fear aside and gripping onto the science and hard evidence we have that show HPV vaccines are a safe choice for your child.



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