

CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION STRATEGIES

MEDICAL ADVISORY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING:

Medical Advisory Panel (MAP) recommends initiating cervical cancer screening at the age of 30 years. However, screening may also be considered for sexually active women aged 25 years and above.

Liquid-based cytology in combination with HPV DNA testing is advised as the preferred method of screening, where feasible and affordable. It is recommended that appropriate partnerships be established with accredited laboratory centres to facilitate these tests. When utilizing these methods, screening intervals of every five years is sufficient.

In facilities where colposcopy is performed, it should be supported by the availability of outpatient biopsy services at all clinics to ensure comprehensive evaluation and diagnosis.

HPV VACCINATION:

HPV vaccination stands at the forefront of primary prevention against cervical cancer. It provides protection against genital and oropharyngeal cancer and also genital warts.

TYPES OF HPV VACCINES AVAILABLE IN INDIA

BRAND	TYPE	MANUFACTURER	USED IN AGE GROUP
GARDASIL 4	Quadrivalent (HPV 6,11,16 & 18)	MSD	Females 9- 45 years
GARDASIL 9	Nonavalent (HPV 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 & 58)	MSD	Females and males 9-45 years
CERVAVAC	Quadrivalent (HPV 6, 11, 16 & 18)	Serum Institute of India	Females and males 9-26 years

DOSAGE

Following the WHO guidelines,

- Single dose schedule can be used for girls and boys aged 9 - 20 years.
- Two doses for 21 years and above to be administered [Two doses: 0 & 6 months]

For HIV positive or immunocompromised girls, three doses are to be followed.

FPA India Clinics should prioritize to vaccinate the preferred 9-14 age group girls and boys prior to the start of sexual activity, and continue through adolescence until 20 years with a single dose.