

# Information, Please! What People Ask About Cervical Cancer & How We Respond

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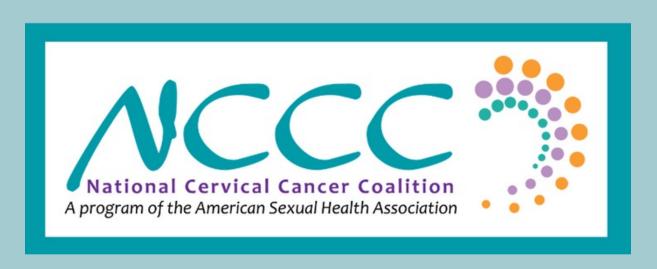
### Disclosures

No Disclosures



# HPV/Cervical Cancer Resource Center & National Cervical Cancer Coalition

ASHA's National HPV and Cervical Cancer Prevention Resource Center is dedicated to addressing the multiple issues and challenges associated with HPV and cervical cancer prevention in the United States. The resource Center is here for you!





# HPV 101



## Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

>100 genotypes, some linked primarily with anogenital skin

Transmission is direct skin-to-skin contact during sex

Low-risk: anogenital warts

High-risk: associated with cancers of the cervix, vagina, vulva, penis, anus, and some head & neck tumors

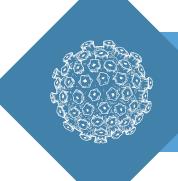
Most cases have no obvious symptoms and resolve spontaneously

### **HPV 101**



#### Pap Tests

Finds abnormal cell changes of the cervix. Cervical cells are collected with a brush or cotton tipped applicator and sent to a lab for evaluation.



#### **HPV Tests**

Check directly for the genetic material of HPV within cells, and can detect the "high risk" types linked with cervical cancer.

#### Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines

The annual Pap is no more! For most people with cervixes:



Every 5
years with a
hrHPV test



Every 5
years with a
Pap/hrHPV
co-test



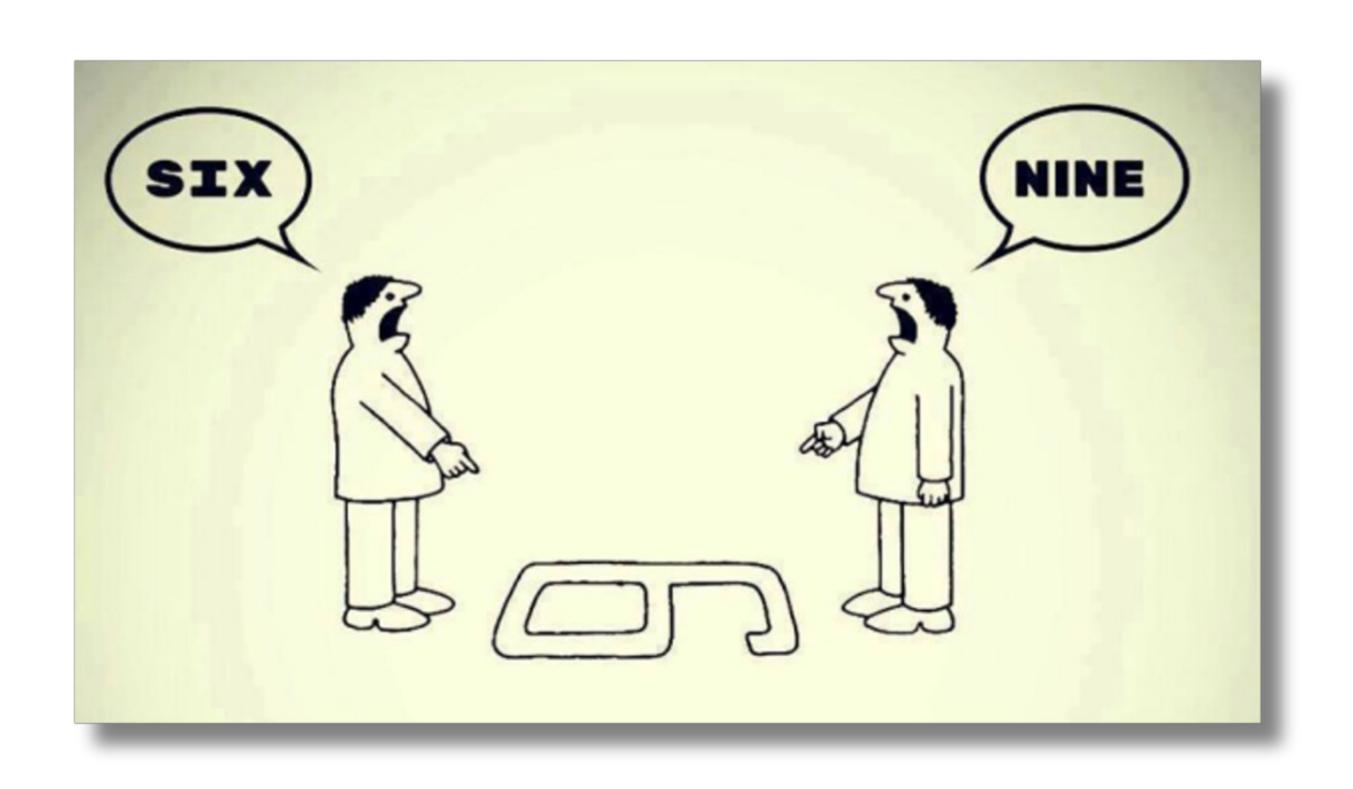
Every 3
years with
cytology
(Pap test)
alone

# Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines

#### **Questions & Concerns**

- •"No annual test means something has been taken away from me."
- •"More testing is better, right?"
- This is a just a cost-saving move!"

# Offer a New Perspective



# Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines How we Respond



Screening technology has improved



Cervical cancer tends to develop slowly over many years



Extended intervals still offer benefits and protection



Harms of over-screening (needless diagnostic/treatment procedures for mild/transient abnormalities, inconvenience and stress)



## **HPV Vaccination**

The HPV vaccine available in the U.S.

- Approved to prevent HPV-related cervical, anal, vulvar, anal, and head and neck cancers
- Available for all genders, recommended at ages 11-12.
- Can be given as early as age nine

# Why vaccinate so young?

- Gets protection in place before onset of sexual activity
- Stronger immune response during the preteen years
  - o 9-14: 2 doses
  - o 15 and up: 3 doses



# Impact of Shame & Stigma

For every discussion on symptoms, diagnostics, and treatment....
....several more on emotional/relationship aspects

- Presumed loss of sexual freedom
- Sexual functioning
- Sense of having done something wrong
- Worry about societal judgment
- Guilt, overly worried about risk of non-sexual exposure

# How do we respond?

- Normalize!
- Gentle grounding: facts, data, experiences of others
- Empower with action steps



#### NCCC-National Cervical Cancer Coalition

Published by Fred Wyand ② · Just now · ③

What does it mean if you have HPV? It means you're quite normal, actually. You're human. With an estimated 75%-80% of all sexually active people having HPV at some point, it's time to talk the talk about prevention tools like vaccines and screening tests. Get the scoop on what you (and those you care about) need to know! https://www.nccc-online.org



#### The Sydney Morning Herald

## The cost of 'embarrassment' when it comes to cervical cancer test



# Offer Tools







#### **HPV and Relationships**

The emotional toll of dealing with HPV is often as difficult as the medical aspects and can be more awkward to address. This may be the area where you feel most vulnerable, and the lack of clear counseling messages can make this even more stressful, especially where relationships are concerned.

We regularly receive questions about what to tell either a current or future sex partner about HPV, for example. The better educated you are about HPV, the easier it is to give partners the information needed to answer common questions. Use the information in this section (and elsewhere on NCCC's Web site) to give yourself a good foundation of knowledge.



#### NCCC @StopHPVCancer · Jul 14

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NCCC asked the question "How much do you think you know about HPV?" Wow did we get some answers... tinyurl.com/ybz62skr #ispeaksexhealth



How much do you think you know about HPV?

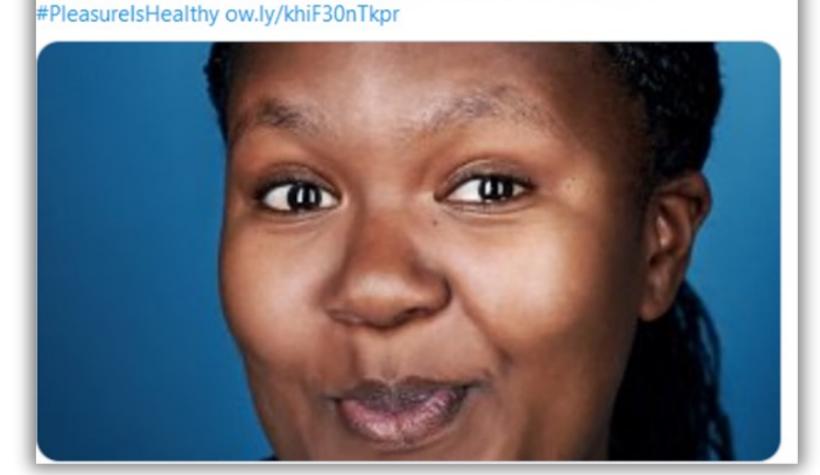
How much do you know about HPV? Test your knowledge and learn more about men and HPV at ...

So youtube.com

#### NCCC @StopHPVCancer · Mar 1, 2019

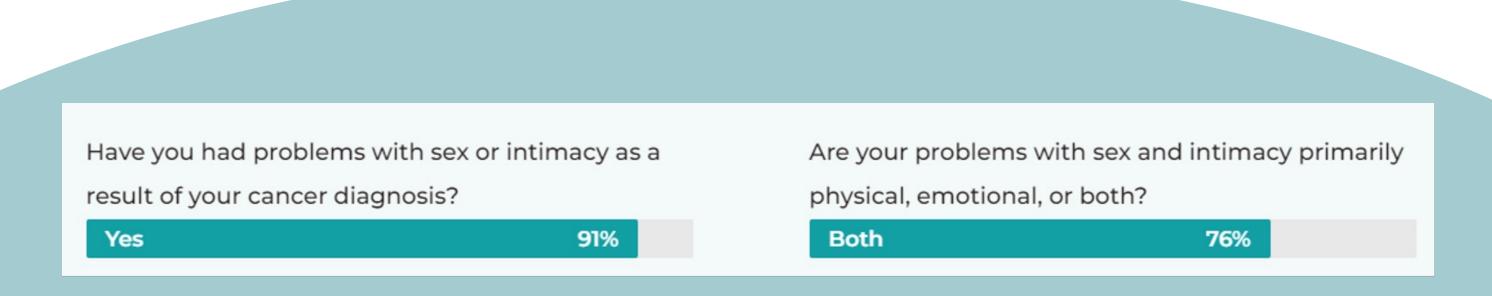
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March is Sexual Pleasure Month! One overlooked area is sexuality and cancer patients and NCCC has resources for patients and partners alike. Everyone deserves pleasure and that doesn't stop with a cancer diagnosis.



## NCCC @StopHPVCancer · Sep 9 It's Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month & we talk with radiation oncologist Mamta Singhvi, MD, MPH about the various ways gynecologic cancers are treated, what to expect during & following treatment & issues around early detection. tinyurl.com/y6th7qj8 #GCAM #womenshealth SOUNDCLOUD Gynecological Health Awareness Month ☐ Share

# Sex & Intimacy After Cancer



- ASHA survey ~100 cervical cancer patients and survivors
- •61% said they talk successfully with their partner about these issues
- •45% said they had productive conversations with their provider

### there are resources that can help



Search for a support group



Find a <u>certified</u> <u>menopause provider</u>



Contact a <u>sexuality</u> counselor or therapist



Learn what to expect and how to manage sex safely



Get tips on healthy and safe sexual activity after cancer

# Don't be shy!



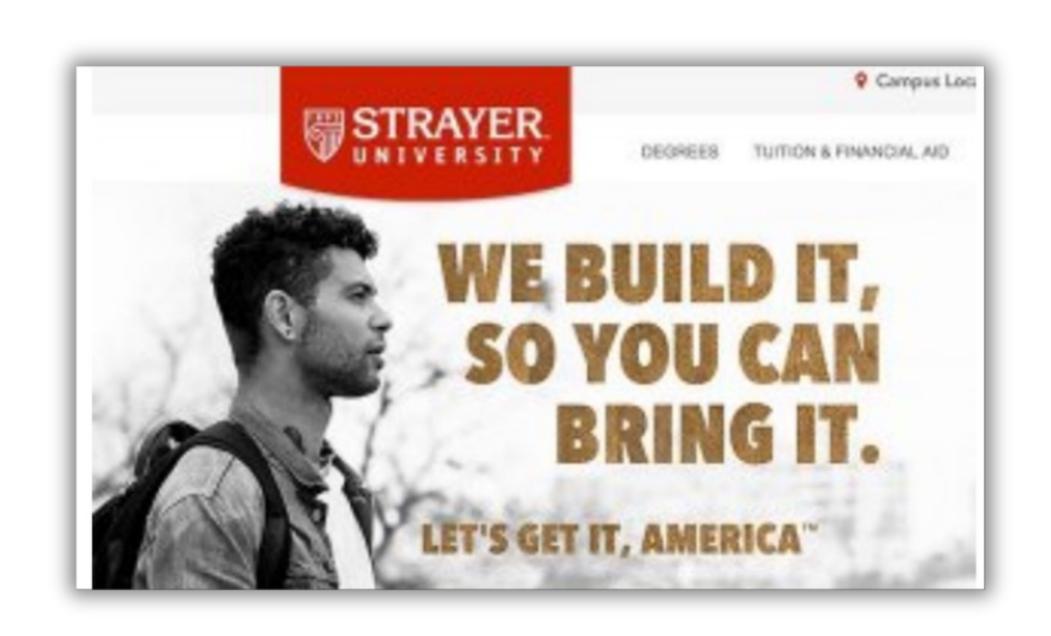
# Cheeky is Good...

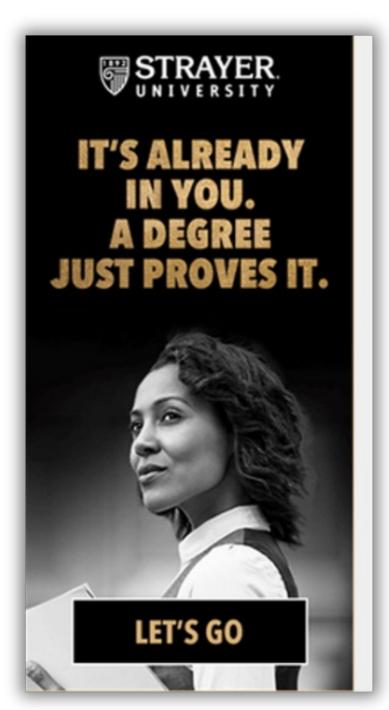
Do condoms completely prevent the transmission of HPV? No. But that is not to say condoms are useless! Studies show condom use can lower the risk of getting HPV and reduce the risk of HPV-related diseases! Plus condoms prevent other STIs and unintended pregnancy! So #WrapItUp

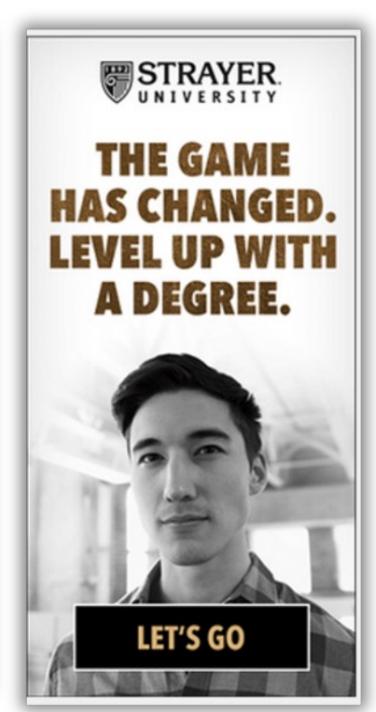




# Hero's Journey









#### NCCC-National Cervical Cancer Coalition

Published by Fred Wyand ② · March 7 · ③

NCCC chapter leaders at the #Houston2020 meeting. They educate, advocate, and absolutely, positively got each others back. They got yours, too. Find out more and join them at https://tinyurl.com/sgcn6ct



# Imitation is the most sincere form of flattery...

# Fred Wyand

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#### Websites

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Retention
www.sayyestoprep.org
www.yesmeanstest.org
www.iwannaknow.org