

**Mayo Clinic News Network**

**Title: Mayo Clinic Minute: Vaccinate against throat cancer?** Date: June 15, 2017

**INTRO:** The same virus that's the leading cause of cervical cancer is also the leading cause of throat cancer. HPV is also the most common sexually transmitted infection, according to the CDC.

"The best prevention that we have now is the vaccine," says Mayo Clinic head and neck surgeon Dr. Geoffrey Young. The CDC recommends HPV vaccination for cancer prevention, beginning at age 11 or 12, for boys and girls.

A recent study released by the American Society of Clinical Oncology found that the high-risk, cancer-causing strain of HPV infection was 88 percent lower overall among those who'd had least one vaccine dose, and 100 percent lower in young men. Men are four times more likely than women to develop HPV-derived throat cancer, according to the Oral Cancer Foundation.

"The good news with this cancer is that it's very responsive to treatment," says Dr. Young. Dennis Douda reports.

Video	Audio
<b>Total running time [1:00]</b>	<b>/// VIDEO</b>
<b>TITLE : Geoffrey Young, M.D., Ph.D. Otorhinolaryngology Mayo Clinic</b>	<b>"This type of cancer's been in existence for a long time, but most of the cancers we were seeing prior to 10-15 years ago were related to alcohol and tobacco exposure."</b>
<b>Dennis Douda speaking</b>	Today, the Human Papilloma Virus, or HPV, is a more likely cause of oropharyngeal or throat cancers. Head and neck surgeon Dr. Geoffrey Young says robotic procedures have greatly improved treatment.
<b>Dr. Geoffrey Young speaking</b>	<b>"Prior to this, the surgery mainly involved a disfiguring operation where the patient's jaw would have to be split in order to get back to the back of the throat. We now have the ability to use a surgical robot that we put into the patient's mouth, and we can remove the tumor through the mouth. Patients go home the next day."</b>
<b>Dennis Douda speaking</b>	Without obvious symptoms, many throat cancers are not caught early and treatment becomes more complicated...
<b>Dr. Geoffrey Young speaking</b>	<b>"...meaning you may need surgery. You may need radiation. You may need both. You may also need chemo."</b>

<b>Dennis Douda speaking</b>	All the more reason, says Dr. Young, for the public to embrace the very effective HPV vaccine as a cancer preventative. For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Dennis Douda.
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Anchor tag: The latest information from the CDC shows that 6 out of 10 eligible boys and 4 out of 10 eligible girls have not received their recommended HPV vaccinations.