

The Policy Committee has worked to provide a statement on behalf of IPVS on guidelines for vaccination of immunocompromised hosts:

Key points

IPVS STATEMENT ON HPV VACCINATION AND IMMUNOCOMPROMISED HOSTS

- Immunocompromised people are at increased risk of HPV-related disease, compared with immunocompetent people.
- HPV vaccination is safe in immunocompromised people (e.g., HIV-positive [+] individuals, transplant recipients).
- Given current knowledge, HPV vaccines will likely benefit immunocompromised men and women, when vaccinated in the recommended age range.
- It is ideal to vaccinate everyone according to national guidelines, before people become immunocompromised.
- For those who are immunocompromised at the time of vaccination, 3 doses are currently recommended.
- Antibody titres in response to vaccination are often lower than those in immunocompetent people, but the clinical relevance of this is yet unknown. Efficacy data following vaccination in immunocompromised people are very limited to date.
- Vaccines that have broad coverage or cross-coverage should be encouraged for HIV(+) men and women given growing evidence that the distribution of HPV types in cancers may be broader than that seen in the immunocompetent population.
- Cervical cancer screening remains an important public health complement to HPV vaccination for the prevention of cervical cancer.