



Harlingen Pediatrics Associates



The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine has been in the news lately. Governor Perry wants to set a requirement that all girls entering middle school or high school have the vaccine. The debate about this has more to do with politics and legal considerations (can the governor mandate such a thing?) and less to do with the value of the vaccine.



We now know that cervical cancer is caused by HPV. The cervical cancer vaccine (marketed as Gardasil) protects girls and young women from infection by 4 members of the HPV family of viruses most likely to cause cervical cancer. The virus is transmitted through sexual activity. The vaccine has no effect on the brains of girls and young women – it does not change their choices and behavior regarding sexual activity. Good judgment and self-respect are still required, as are the values of personal responsibility parents convey to their children.



We at HPA believe the HPV vaccine is enormously important for girls and young women. It offers protection from a form of cancer that represents a significant risk in the lives of young and older women. What better present for graduation or a quincenera ?

Visit these other links for more information.

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/>

<http://www.gardasil.com/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV.htm>

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_6x_FAQ_HP_Vaccines.asp