



BC WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
& HEALTH CENTRE

*An agency of the Provincial
Health Services Authority*

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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New vaccine could prevent cervical cancer

Vancouver, B.C. – Human papillomavirus is known to cause cervical cancer, which is the fifth most common cause of death from cancer in women. Now, doctors at BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre and the Vaccine Evaluation Centre are recruiting healthy women, 26 years of age and older to participate in an international clinical research trial to measure the effectiveness of a vaccine to prevent contraction of the human papillomavirus (HPV), the virus that causes cervical cancer.

“Participation in the study means the opportunity to learn about HPV, and help researchers bring an HPV vaccine closer to general use by allowing us to look at its safety, protection and effectiveness in adult women,” explains principal investigator Dr. Deborah Money, Head of the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine at BC Women's.

Studies show that 98 per cent of cancers of the cervix are found in women that have an HPV infection, which is transmitted during sexual intercourse. Infection is very common, affecting approximately three out of four sexually active women. The development of an effective vaccine to prevent HPV infection would consequently prevent most cases of cervical cancer.

Despite exciting promises with vaccine development, there are currently no licensed vaccines available for preventing HPV infection. Regular gynaecological exams, including a Pap smear, are considered the best way to prevent cervical cancer.

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There are a total of 11 countries participating in the three year trial. Approximately 5,400 healthy adult women will take part in the study, with about 50 women from the study site in B.C.

For information about how to participate in this vaccine trial, please contact: Lisa Venables, Study Nurse at (604) 875-2424, extension 6359 or through e-mail at lvenables@cw.bc.ca or HPVStudy@cw.bc.ca

BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides service for pregnant women, newborns and women with specialized health needs from across the province. For more information please visit www.bcwomens.ca.

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and province-wide health care services across BC, working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver province-wide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. For more information please visit www.phsa.ca.

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