



HPV Vaccination - The Dental Provider Connection

Rosie Wagner, DDS

Founder, Smiles By Rosie Family Dentistry

Co-Chair, Massachusetts Oral HPV Prevention Taskforce

drwagner@smilesbyrosie.com





Disclosures

- I, Dr. Katie-Rose Wagner, have been asked to disclose any significant relationships with commercial entities that are either providing financial support for this program or whose products or services are mentioned during my presentations.
- I have no relationships to disclose.
- I may/will discuss the use of vaccines in a manner not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but in accordance with ACIP recommendations.



Today's Focus

- 1. Connection between HPV and oropharyngeal cancers**
- 2. Role of dental providers in cancer screening, cancer prevention, and the patient-provider relationship**
- 3. Overview of the Massachusetts Oral HPV Prevention Taskforce**



HPV and Oropharyngeal Cancers

- HPV (primarily HPV16) causes cancers in all genders and ages in oral and pharyngeal tissues:
 - Tonsils
 - Tonsillar crypts
 - Tonsillar pillars
 - Pharyngeal mucosa
 - Uvula¹
 - Sites associated with squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the mouth
 - SCC/oropharyngeal connection

¹Bharti et al. *Indian J Sex Transm Dis* 2013 Jul-Dec; 34(2): 77–82.



HPV Vaccine Protects Against Oral Cancers and Warts

HPV Vaccine protects against HPV16 and HPV 18

- **These strains cause 97% of all HPV-related oropharyngeal cancers¹**
- **Prevents pharyngeal and oral warts**

¹Kreimer AR, Clifford GM, Boyle P, et al. Human papillomavirus types in head and neck squamous cell carcinomas worldwide: a systematic review. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2005 Feb;14(2):467–475



Why Are Dental Professionals Getting Involved?

- Close patient-provider relationships
 - Lasting decades
 - Family dentists treat all ages
 - Different levels of interactions: hygienist, dentist, assistants, etc.
- Already performing SCC cancer screenings
 - Adding verbal questions for oropharyngeal cancer symptoms
 - Dysphagia
 - Persistent unilateral sore throat
 - Lymphadenopathy



Why Are Dental Professionals Getting Involved?

- Excellent compliance and frequency
 - Semiannual preventive visits
 - Many dental patients do not report having a PCP
 - Only healthcare home for some people
- Responsibility to practice preventive care
- Great opportunity to educate dentists and hygienists on HPV and HPV vaccination
 - Not part of dental curriculum
- Dentists have great community involvement



Barriers With Dental Providers

- Unable to administer vaccinations
 - Can “host” retail pharmacies
- Patients and dentists not used to immunization discussions in dental setting¹
- No established referral system
 - Following-up after referrals?
 - Where to refer?

¹Daley et al. (2014) Prevention Of HPV-Related Oral Cancer: Assessing Dentists' Readiness. *Public Health* 128(3) 231-238.



Massachusetts Oral HPV Prevention Taskforce

Developed with support and cooperation from:

- **MA DPH Immunization Program**
- **Dana Farber Cancer Institute – HPV workgroup**
- **Team Maureen**
- **Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Partners**
- **Smiles By Rosie Family Dentistry**

Goals:

- **Provide a central location for information on connections between HPV, HPV-related oropharyngeal cancers and HPV vaccination**
- **Educate dental providers, patients, and the community**
- **Coordinate cross-disciplinary curricula among healthcare professionals**

Massachusetts Oral HPV Prevention Taskforce

Projects in the last 12 months:

- Partnering with Team Maureen, developed a **Dental HPV Toolkit** that includes patient- and provider-facing pamphlets, referral pads, and posters. Distributed over 300 toolkits and have permanent online hosting for free download.

You should perform an oral cancer self-exam each month. Here's how:

- Immediately after a dental exam, do a thorough self-exam to see what is "normal" for you.
- Feel your neck for any lumps.
- Examine your lips, cheeks, and gums.
- Use a flashlight to examine the top, sides, and underneath your tongue, the back of your throat and roof of your mouth.
- Be aware of changes in color, texture, or lumps.

You should also:
Brush and floss regularly.
See your dentist regularly for an oral cancer screening during your exam.

CANCER PREVENTION CHECKLIST

- Get Vaccinated!
- Visit your doctor annually
- See your dentist for an oral cancer screening
- Women: Get regular Pap & HPV tests as recommended by your doctor

Understanding HPV & Cancer at the dentist

Massachusetts Coalition for HPV / CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS

Contact us at:
HPVCoalition@gmail.com or
www.TeamMaureen.org/Coalition

HPV
Human Papillomavirus and
Reducing Your Cancer Risk

Tips for Talking about HPV at the Dentist

Refer to Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series.

Call your doctor to make an appointment for the cancer prevention vaccine.

Massachusetts Coalition for HPV / CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS



Massachusetts Oral HPV Prevention Taskforce

Projects in the last 12 months (continued):

- Published as the cover article in the Winter 2017 issue of the *Journal of the Massachusetts Dental Society*
- Presented a 3-hour course for 160 attendees of the Yankee Dental Congress
- Presented a table distributing educational materials and toolkits to attendees of the Yankee Dental Congress in 2016 and 2017
- Presented lectures to the North Shore District Dental, Cape Cod District Dental Society, and the Charles River Community Health Center



Massachusetts Oral HPV Prevention Taskforce

Future Projects

- Lectures planned for the Greater New York Dental Meeting, Rhode Island Dental Association, and New Hampshire Dental Association
- Data from pre- and post-questionnaires from lectures and toolkits
- Funding to expand taskforce
- Multidisciplinary outreach
 - Educating physicians
 - Public-facing curricula, events, and vaccination days



What Can You Do?

1. Distribute toolkits to physicians and dentists
 - <http://teammaureen.org/about/materials/c/680> (or email us for link!)
2. Invite us to lecture to your organization, providers, patients, or community
3. Speak with your own dentist about our efforts and encourage them to get involved and refer for HPV vaccination



What Can You Do?

4. Refer patients for HPV vaccination

5. Join the taskforce

6. Educate the public on the connection between HPV and oropharyngeal cancers



Questions?

Email me any time!

Rosie Wagner, DDS

drwagner@smilesbyrosie.com