

# HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV): WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



## WHAT IS HPV?



Human papillomavirus is a small non-enveloped DNA virus which is an extremely common viral infection worldwide<sup>1</sup>.

There are over 200 different HPV types<sup>2</sup>. They are grouped into high risk and low risk types based on their cancerous properties<sup>2</sup>. HPV can affect the genital, mouth and throat area and it is possible to contract it without having penetrative sex<sup>4</sup>. High-risk HPV types are associated with cancer of the cervix, vagina, vulva, anus, penis, and oropharynx<sup>3</sup>. Low-risk HPV is associated with skin infections which can result in non-cancerous skin growths (warts) on various body parts such as the feet, hands and elbows<sup>4</sup>.

Most HPV infections usually cause no symptoms and are cleared by the immune system<sup>4</sup>. However, repeated HPV infections can cause uncontrollable growth of abnormal cells leading to HPV related cancer.

## HOW IS HPV TRANSMITTED?

### ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION MAY INCLUDE:

- Through medical procedures such as colposcopy and transvaginal ultrasonography or ENT procedures<sup>6</sup>.
- Via fomites – objects or materials which are likely to carry infection, such as clothes, utensils, furniture, hair and skin cells<sup>6</sup>.
- Any skin to skin contact of the genital area<sup>4</sup>.
- Through kissing<sup>4</sup>.
- Vaginal, anal or oral sex<sup>4</sup>.
- From mother to embryo, foetus/placenta or baby during pregnancy or childbirth<sup>4</sup>.

**DID YOU KNOW HPV CAN RETAIN 30% OF ITS INFECTIVITY FOR SEVEN DAYS ON INADEQUATELY DISINFECTED MEDICAL SURFACES AND DEVICES<sup>14</sup>?**

## GLOBAL IMPACT OF HPV

### PERCENTAGE OF CANCERS ASSOCIATED WITH HPV<sup>7,9,12</sup>

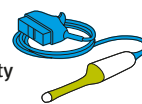


- 99% of cervical cancer cases are linked to infections with high-risk HPV<sup>9</sup>.
- HPV Type 16 and HPV Type 18 strains are known to be responsible for approximately 70% of cervical cancer cases<sup>10,11</sup>.
- Globally, HPV infection accounts for an estimated 530,000 cervical cancer cases (~ 270,000 deaths) annually<sup>8</sup>.
- Globally, 90% of oropharyngeal cancers are caused by HPV<sup>12</sup>.
- HPV Type 16 accounts for approximately 95% of HPV-positive oropharyngeal cancers<sup>13</sup>.
- Nearly four out of 10 cases of cancer caused by HPV occur among men<sup>3</sup>.

## HPV AND MEDICAL DEVICES

Medical devices used to examine areas of the body, including the vagina and cervix (transvaginal ultrasound probes and colposcopes) and the neck and throat (e.g. endoscopes), can be carriers of HPV if not disinfected properly.

For transvaginal ultrasound probes it is recommended by international guidelines to use a sheath or condom during the procedure to minimise contamination<sup>15</sup>. However, full protection against HPV is not guaranteed<sup>17</sup> as perforations and leakage of sheaths have been discovered post-use<sup>18</sup>.



**Figure 1: Endocavity ultrasound probe**



**Figure 2: Endoscope**

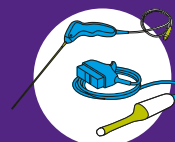
Semi-critical medical devices such as endocavity ultrasound probes must undergo high-level disinfection after each patient<sup>16</sup>. High-level disinfectants (HLDs) destroy all microorganisms, excluding high amounts of bacterial spores.

**DID YOU KNOW ENDOSCOPES, TRANSVAGINAL ULTRASOUND PROBES AND COLPSCOPES COULD BE HARBOURING HPV VIRUS WHICH COULD INFECT THE NEXT PATIENT?**

## TRISTEL EFFICACY

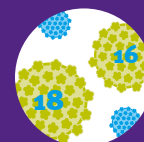
Tristel chlorine dioxide-based products offer a full spectrum of efficacy and are virucidal in accordance with the required European Norm (EN) test standards stipulated in EN 14885:2018.

A new scientific study by Meyers et al. (2020) has proven Tristel Duo and the Tristel Trio Wipes System efficacy against infectious HPV Type 16 and Type 18 on real life medical devices in 30 seconds<sup>20</sup>.



**REAL LIFE DEVICES WERE TESTED**

Nasendoscope and endocavity ultrasound probes with no sheaths.



**HPV TYPE 16 & TYPE 18**

Cause 99% of cervical cancers<sup>9</sup> and over 90% of oropharyngeal cancers<sup>12</sup>



**30 SECONDS**

Short, realistic contact time

**WIPE OUT HPV WITH THE TRISTEL TRIO WIPES SYSTEM AND TRISTEL DUO**

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