

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Infection

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Epidemiology

In the United States, there are about 80 million individuals that are diagnosed with the human papillomavirus (HPV), and every day there are 14 million new cases of HPV that are contracted by people between the ages 15 and 59 years (Schub & Parks-Chapman J, 2017). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) informs that human papillomavirus is a virus with a double stranded DNA that affects the epithelial tissue and is derived from the family Papovaviridae (Meites et al., 2020). In addition, more than 200 strains of HPV have been identified for which nearly 40 HPV strains can be sexually transmitted and affect the genital area and the mucosal epithelium (Hubert & VanMeter, 2018). On the other hand, the remaining strains infect the cutaneous epithelium that can cause warts in the hands, fingers, and feet (Meites et al., 2020). HPV infection is one the most prevalence diagnosed infection throughout the world, in which nearly all sexually active individual develop an HPV infection at some point during the course of their lives without being aware of the infection (Meites et al., 2020).

Etiology and Risk Factors

HPV infection can be acquired when the virus penetrates the body, typically through an open wound, cut, or tear in the skin. In other words, it can be spread through skin-to-skin interaction with an infected individual. Although, the most common spread of HPV infection is during oral, penile, vaginal, or anal sex (Meites et al., 2020). Common warts are prevalence in children and genital warts are occurs mostly in teenagers and young adults. Schubs (2017) explains that there are many risk factors to acquire HPV infections related to sexual activities. For instance, having unprotected sex, having sex with a person that has had multiple sex partners, having different sex partners, and having intimate sexual relations at an early age.