



Human papillomavirus—or HPV as it is more commonly known—is one of the most common causes of sexually transmitted infection in the world. The American Social Health Association states that at least 20 million people in the United States are already infected, with approximately 5.5 million new cases of sexually transmitted HPV infections being reported every year. In 2004, according to American Cancer Society estimates, about 10,520 women developed invasive cervical cancer and about 3,900 died from the disease. Most of these women did not receive regular cervical cancer screening.

A NATURAL APPROACH TO Cervical Health

by Rachael Baseley

HPV IS ACTUALLY THE NAME of a group of viruses consisting of more than a hundred different types. Out of these, over 30 are sexually transmitted. These sexually transmitted strains can infect the genital area of men and women, such as the skin of the penis, vulva, or anus, and the linings of the vagina, cervix or rectum. The most easily recognized sign of infection is genital warts. Approximately two-thirds of people who have sexual contact with a partner with genital warts will develop warts themselves, usually within a three-month period.

Unfortunately, the difficulty with the virus is that most people will not have any symptoms. Therefore, many people never receive treatment.

One study sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) reported that almost half of women infected with HPV had no obvious symptoms. As you can imagine, the absence of symptoms means that genital HPV infection can be passed between sexual partners without their knowledge.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Most women are diagnosed with HPV on the basis of abnormal Pap tests." But by then, sometimes, the HPV has done damage to the cells and caused precancerous or cancerous changes.

Although rare, about 10 of the 30 genital HPV strains can lead to the development of cervical cancer, meaning that all women should consider genital HPV infection as something to be taken seriously. Thankfully the Pap screening program can alert women to the presence of cellular changes, inflammation, or early HPV infection promptly.

IF YOUR TEST RESULTS ARE POSITIVE

The real issue is what to do if your test comes back positive. If you have a diagnosis of atypical squamous cells (ASC), these may have undetermined significance (US). With a diagnosis of ASC-US, the squamous cells do not appear completely normal, but doctors are uncertain about what the cell changes mean. Sometimes the changes are related to HPV infection. ASC-US are considered mild abnormalities. Atypical glandular cells (AGC) also do not appear normal, but doctors are also uncertain about what the cell changes mean.

Endocervical adenocarcinoma *in situ* (AIS) is precancerous cells.

Low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (LSIL) means there are early changes in the size and shape of cells. These are considered mild abnormalities caused by HPV infection.

High-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (HSIL) means that there are more marked changes in the size and shape of the abnormal (precancerous) cells, meaning that the cells look very different from normal cells. HSILs are more severe abnormalities and have a higher likelihood of progressing to invasive cancer.

Besides biopsy, conventional management for dysplastic cells on a woman's cervix is surgical removal. Surgeries can remove the abnormal

HPV Factoids

- ✓ Pap tests can detect genital HPV infection. The best way to protect yourself against the consequences of HPV infection (barring abstinence) is to have regular Pap tests.
- ✓ By age 50, at least 80 percent of women will have acquired genital HPV infection.
- ✓ If your test comes back abnormal, seek expert advice and be sure the results are accurate; then, tailor your health program, according to stage of dysplasia.

cells present, but since they are caused by a virus, the human papillomavirus, the virus will remain after the procedure until the body fights it off, according to an online health expert. Laser vaporization is another alternative but, again, the HPV could remain. In some cases, especially with less certain conditions, your doctor might prescribe watchful waiting.

But here is where silver hydrosol might be useful as a means of supporting the body's already healthy immune defense system. At 49, Andrea Martin* had fallen behind on going for her regular Pap tests. When she finally went for her checkup, her Pap test showed that she had HPV, which she was advised could lead to cervical cancer. After being told she would need a biopsy, she began looking into possible natural supplements that might be able to help.

Andrea remembered how successfully silver hydrosol had worked for her in the past with other conditions. Would it help her now? Being an avid reader of *Healthy Living*, she already knew a lot about the product: "I love to read about silver. It's this great little story...."

After contacting a health advisor, she was told to take Sovereign Silver™, the nation's leading silver hydrosol, to support her body's healthy defense response against HPV; for six days, Andrea took a teaspoon by mouth morning and night, and inserted two to three ounces into her vagina for 20 minutes twice a day (using the pillow method; see sidebar). On the afternoon of the sixth day, she went for the biopsy. Immediately after the procedure, her doctor told her that things looked good. She received her final results 10 days later, when she was told that everything looked great. Andrea tells us, "I really feel that the Sovereign Silver made a difference."

No one knows for sure in this case; it could well be that the cells were, upon closer inspection, not abnormal. And we also know that a healthy body can experience what bestselling author Andrew Weil, M.D., calls "spontaneous healing."

In the case of medical uses of silver and HPV, however, science tells us that silver has shown itself to be helpful against viral infections in medical studies from the mid-1900s.

As far back as 1932, the Council on Pharmacy

and Chemistry was recommending direct application of silver formulations to the vagina to help deal with infections.

More recently, intravenous use of silver has even been shown to help reduce the viral load in AIDS patients.

According to Eric Rentz, D.O., a leading expert in silver preparations, "[Silver's] unique attributes to keep abreast of viral mutations may prove to be one of the most valuable discoveries of this century."

Of course, an experience like that of Martin is only an anecdote. Yet, clearly these early studies and the work of Dr.

Rentz, combined with the weight of the medical evidence, suggest that silver definitely interacts with bacteria and viruses and apparently kills some, including in the vaginal area. Silver should not replace a doctor's prescription, however. The medical community clearly has need for more

research on silver's use against HPV, since it could be a safe and effective method to support the body's already healthy ability to protect itself.

WHICH SILVER TO CHOOSE?

Keeping in mind that silver purchased at health food stores is legally sold only as a dietary supplement and is not a method of treating any disease but simply a method to support the body's health, based on our analysis of comparative laboratory test results, Sovereign Silver is the best silver hydrosol today. It has the lowest concentration of silver but apparently the highest activity, the result of highly ionized and dispersed nanoparticles. What we consider unique about Natural-Immunogenics is that it is devoted to the science of silver and has done a great deal to help introduce both good science and great innovations to the field. ■

References available from www.freedompressionline.com.

*Name changed to protect privacy.

HPV Factoids

- ✓ There are more than 100 different strains of HPV, of which about 30 are spread through sexual contact.
- ✓ In the United States, there are over 20 million people infected with HPV. Each year, about 5.5 million new cases are added to this figure.
- ✓ Most HPV infections have no signs or symptoms.

How to Use Silver Vaginally

Besides taking silver orally, it is crucial to get the silver to the site of infection. For this reason, in addition to taking an oral dose of one teaspoon four times a day, it is highly recommended that you purchase a bulb syringe, and insert two to three ounces twice a day, holding it for about 10 to 20 minutes (we suggest lying on your back with a couple of pillows under you). Continue both forms of administration for six days.

According to Eric Rentz, D.O., a leading expert in silver preparations, "[Silver's] unique attributes to keep abreast of viral mutations may prove to be one of the most valuable discoveries of this century."



RESOURCES

Sovereign Silver, 10 ppm, is the only true silver hydrosol on the market. Much purer than colloidal silver, silver hydrosol refers to a formulation of pure silver in pure water, free of contaminants and added ingredients. Sovereign Silver is available at natural health centers, natural pharmacies, and from health professionals nationwide. If you need help finding a store or health professional in your area, visit Natural-Immunogenics at www.sovereignsilver.info or call them toll-free at (888) 328-8840.

(Editor's note: Sovereign Silver is not a drug and it is not intended to treat or diagnose a disease. It is a beneficial health supplement.)