

## DOCTOR DISCUSSION GUIDE

# Managing HPV

Your doctor can help you better understand what a human papillomavirus (HPV) infection means for you now and in the future. Asking the right questions during your conversation will help you know what to expect and how to better navigate your condition. Familiarize yourself with these common terms before your appointment to help facilitate your discussion.

## Vocabulary to Know

Your doctor might mention these common terms. Here's what they mean.

<b>Acute vs. Persistent Infection</b>	An acute infection is when you're first infected with HPV. While most people are able to clear an acute infection, some don't. These individuals have persistent infections, which can lead to cancer.
<b>Cervical Dysplasia</b>	Cervical dysplasia is when abnormal cells show up in cervical tissue, often as a result of HPV infection. For many, these cells clear without much issue, but for others, this condition can progress to full-blown cervical cancer.
<b>Epithelium</b>	Epithelium is a thin layer of tissue that lines some of the body's cavities or organs, such as the cervix. The HPV virus infects the cells that make up this tissue.
<b>High-Risk HPV</b>	While there are many HPV virus subtypes, some are more aggressive than others and are more likely to cause cancer like head and neck, anal, and cervical cancers. High-risk HPV primarily refers to HPV 16 and 18, which are responsible for the bulk of HPV-associated cancers, though they aren't the only subtypes considered to be high-risk.
<b>Laryngeal Papillomas</b>	Most people with HPV have no symptoms at all. Some will get genital warts, and others will go on to develop cancer. In a very small number of people, HPV can prompt warts to grow inside the throat. These are called laryngeal papillomas.

