Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) for Use of 9-Valent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (9vHPV) in Females and Males

Methods: GRADE was used to evaluate 9vHPV for routine vaccination of females and males aged 11 or 12 years as well as catch-up vaccination of females aged 13 through 26 years and males aged 13 through 21 years who were not vaccinated previously. Evidence of benefits, harms, values and preferences, and cost-effectiveness were reviewed in accordance with GRADE methods.¹ The policy questions were: "Should 9vHPV be recommended for routine vaccination of 11 or 12 year olds?" and "Should 9vHPV be recommended for females aged 13 through 26 years and males aged 13 through 21 years who have not been vaccinated previously?"

The benefits considered critical outcomes in GRADE were the prevention of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia grade 2 or 3, or adenocarcinoma in situ (\geq CIN2), cervical cancer, definitive therapies, oropharyngeal cancer, vaginal/vulvar cancer, and anal cancer in females and anal cancer and oropharyngeal cancer in males (Table 1). Anogenital warts were considered an important outcome for both females and males. The evidence profile included the most prevalent HPV-attributable outcomes for females, \geq CIN2, cervical cancer and anogenital warts, and for males, anal cancer and anogenital warts. Evidence was not available for the critical outcome, oropharyngeal cancer, in females or males; definitive therapies, vaginal/vulvar cancer, and anal cancer in females were not included in the evidence profile for GRADE.



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Data used for the evidence review were from 9vHPV pre-licensure clinical trials as well as the efficacy trials from the quadrivalent HPV vaccine (4vHPV) program (Table 2). The pivotal efficacy trial for 9vHPV was conducted in females aged 16 through 26 years.² This was a randomized trial comparing 9vHPV with 4vHPV conducted among approximately 14,000 females aged 16 through 26 years. This trial provided evidence for all policy questions including vaccination of females in the catch-up age group. Evidence used to evaluate efficacy of 9vHPV for prevention of HPV 31, 33, 45, 52, 58-related outcomes was directly from this trial. Evidence used to evaluate efficacy of 9vHPV for prevention of HPV 6, 11, 16, 18-related outcomes was from randomized controlled trials (RCT) of 4vHPV³ and from immunogenicity studies comparing 9vHPV with 4vHPV;⁴ these data were used to infer 9vHPV efficacy for HPV 6, 11, 16, 18-related outcomes.

For HPV vaccination of females in the routine age group, evidence from two immunobridging trials was also used. One trial compared 9vHPV in females aged 9 through 15 years with females aged 16 through 26 years, and another trial compared 9vHPV with 4vHPV in females aged 9 through 15 years.⁴ Noninferior immunogenicity of 9vHPV compared with 4vHPV in females aged 9 through 15 years and 9vHPV in females aged 9 through 15 years and 9vHPV in females aged 9 through 15 years was used to infer efficacy for prevention of HPV 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, 58-related outcomes.

For HPV vaccination of males, evidence used to evaluate efficacy of 9vHPV for prevention of HPV 6, 11, 16, 18-related outcomes was from one RCT of 4vHPV among approximately 4,000 males aged 16 through 26 years, which evaluated anogenital warts; anal precancer outcomes

were evaluated in a subset of approximately 600;^{5,6} and an immunogenicity study comparing 9vHPV in males with females aged 16 through 26 years.⁴ Noninferior immunogenicity of 9vHPV in males compared with females was used to infer efficacy for prevention of HPV 6, 11, 16, 18-related outcomes.

For HPV vaccination of males in the routine age group, evidence was also from an immunobridging trial, which showed noninferior immunogenicity of 9vHPV in males aged 9 through 15 years compared to females aged 16 through 26 years.⁴ These data were used to infer efficacy for prevention of HPV 6, 11, 16, 18-related outcomes. We also compared immunogenicity of 9vHPV in males aged 9 through 15 years with males aged 16 through 26 years.

The critical harms considered were serious adverse events (SAE) and anaphylaxis. Safety of 9vHPV was evaluated based on 6 Phase III studies^{*} in the clinical development program.

Immunogenicity and efficacy evidence used was from analyses of the per protocol populations. For the efficacy trials, this included individuals who received all 3 vaccinations within one year of enrollment, did not have major deviations from the study protocol, were naïve (PCR negative and seronegative) to the relevant HPV type(s) prior to dose 1, and who remained PCR negative to the relevant HPV type(s) through one month post-dose 3 (Month 7).⁷

^{*} Protocols 001, 002, 003, 005, 007, 009

Evidence type for each considered outcome was derived through a review of study design, risk of bias, inconsistency, indirectness, imprecision, and other considerations.

Sex	Outcome	Importance	Included in evidence profile
	Benefits		
	≥CIN2	Critical	Yes
	Cervical cancer	Critical	Yes
	Definitive therapies (cervical) ^{a,b}	Critical	No
Females	Oropharyngeal cancer ^c	Critical	No
	Vaginal/vulvar cancer ^d	Critical	No
	Anal cancer ^d	Critical	No
	Anogenital warts	Important	Yes
	Anal cancer	Critical	Yes
Males	Oropharyngeal cancer ^c	Critical	No
	Anogenital warts	Important	Yes
	Harms		
F lll	Serious adverse events	Critical	Yes
Females and males	Anaphylaxis	Critical	Yes
Not considered separative values of the separa	procedures, loop electrosurgical excisio ately because ≥CIN2 and cervical cance outcomes nce profile because of small numbers ir	er were included in	

Vaccine	Protocol	Design	No. of subjects	Per protocol population	Objectives	
		Randomized,				
	007 ⁸	placebo	1106	Females aged 16–26 years	Efficacy, immunogenicity, ^f safety	
		controlled				
	0.1.08	Randomized,				
	013 ⁸	placebo	5759	Females aged 16–26 years	Efficacy, immunogenicity, ^f safety	
4vHPV		controlled				
	015 ⁸	Randomized, placebo	12167	Females aged 16–26 years	Efficacy, immunogenicity, ^f safety	
	015	controlled	12107	Temales aged 10–20 years	Efficacy, minutogeneity, safety	
		Randomized,				
	020^{5}	placebo	4065 ^a	Males aged 16–26 years	Efficacy, immunogenicity, f safety	
		controlled				
	0.0.12	Randomized,	1 10 1 7			
	001 ²	4vHPV	14215	Females aged 16–26 years	Efficacy, immunogenicity, ^f safety	
		comparator		Females aged 16–26 years, females	Adult-to-adolescent immunobridging	
	002^{9}	Observational	2999	and males aged $9-15$ years		
				and males aged 9–15 years	safety	
	003^{4}	Observational	2520 ^b	Females and males aged 16–26 years	Female-to-male immunobridging,	
9vHPV	005	00501 vational	2020	remaines and males aged to 20 years	safety	
	005 ⁹	Observations	1241	Females and males aged 11–15 years	Concomitant use: Menactra, ^c Adacel,	
	005	Observational	1241	remaies and males aged 11–15 years	safety	
	007 ⁹	Observational	1054	Females and males aged 11–15 years	Concomitant use: Repevax, ^e safety	
		Randomized,			ANDRY to ONIDY immediate	
	009 ⁹	4vHPV	600	Females aged 9–15 years	4vHPV-to-9vHPV immunobridging,	
		comparator			safety	
included 34	63 heterosexua	al males (HM) and	602 men wh	o have sex with men (MSM)	•	
Included 11	06 HM and 31	3 MSM				
		cal conjugate vacci	ne (MenAC)	WY-D)		

^cQuadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY-D)

^dTetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap)

^eTdap/polio vaccine

^fSeroconversion and geometric mean titers; antibody measured by competitive Luminex immunoassay (cLIA) at month 7

	HPV 6	HPV	HPV 31, 33, 45, 52, 58-related		
Outcomes	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
≥CIN2	No ^a	Immunogenicity ^b	Yes	Immunogenicity	
Cervical cancer	No	Immunogenicity ^b	No	≥CIN2, immunogenicity	
Anogenital warts	No	Immunogenicity ^b			

Protocol	Population	No.	Outcome	Efficacy	
007, 013, 015	E 1 11/ 0/	15729	$\geq CIN2^8$	98.2%	
	Females aged 16–26 years	13365	Anogenital warts ³	99.0%	

Table 5. Efficacy of 9vHPV for prevention of HPV 6, 11, 16, 18-related \geq CIN2 and anogenital warts and HPV 31, 33, 45, 52, 58-related \geq CIN2, per protocol population, females aged 16–26 years^a

Outcome-related		9v]	HPV	4v	4vHPV		cine efficacy	- Absolute risk difference	Number needed to	
HPV type	Outcome	No.	Cases	No.	Cases	%	(95% CI)	per 1000 (95% CI)	vaccinate (95% CI)	
UDV (11 16 10	$\geq CIN2^2$	5823	1	5832	1					
HPV 6, 11, 16, 18	Anogenital warts ²	5876	5	5893	1					
HPV 31, 33, 45, 52, 58	$\geq CIN2^7$	5948	1	5943	27	96.3	(79.5, 99.8)	4 fewer per 1000 (3, 5)	250 (200, 333)	
^a Data from Protocol	001							(-,-)	()	

Table 6. Seroconversion and geometric mean titers: 9vHPV compared with 4vHPV, per protocol population, females aged 16–26 years^{2a,c}

		9vHPV	7		4vHPV			
-			GMT			GMT	GMT noninferiority	
Antibody	n	%	(mMU/mL)	n	%	(mMU/mL)	or superiority	
Anti-HPV 6	3993	99.8	893	3975	99.8	875		
Anti-HPV 11	3995	100	666	3982	99.9	830	9vHPV	
Anti-HPV 16	4032	100	3131	4062	100	3157	noninferior to 4vHPV ^b	
Anti-HPV 18	4539	99.8	805	4541	99.7	679		
Anti-HPV 31	4466	99.8	658	4377	50.1	10		
Anti-HPV 33	4702	99.7	416	4691	12.7	<4		
Anti-HPV 45	4792	99.6	253	4750	9.2	<3	9vHPV superior to 4vHPV ^b	
Anti-HPV 52	4455	99.8	380	4335	2.6	<3		
Anti-HPV 58	4486	99.8	483	4446	20.4	<4		

GMT = Geometric mean titer; mMU, milli-Merck units

^aData from Protocol 001, antibody measured by cLIA at month 7

 ${}^{\rm b}P < 0.001$

^cPersonal communication, Alain Luxembourg, MD, PhD, September 2014, for anti-HPV 31, 33, 45, 52, 58

Outcome-related HPV type	Benefits	Design (# studies)	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Evidence type
	≥CIN2	4 vHPV RCT $(3)^{a}$	No serious	No serious	Serious ^c	No serious	2
HPV 6, 11, 16, 18	Cervical cancer	Supportive: 9vHPV	No serious	No serious	Serious ^{c,d}	No serious	3
	Anogenital warts	Randomized (1), Obs $(2)^{b}$	No serious	No serious	Serious ^c	No serious	2
	≥CIN2	9vHPV Randomized (1) ^e	No serious	No serious	No serious	No serious	1
HPV 31, 33, 45, 52, 58	Cervical cancer	Supportive: 9vHPV Obs (2) ^f	No serious	No serious	Serious ^d	No serious	2
^c Downgraded by 1 for i	Protocols 001, 002, 003 ndirectness due to use o indirectness due to use o 1	f immunobridging to 4vHPV f ≥CIN2 as surrogate marker for cer	vical cancer				

	9vHPV in	females age	ed 9–15 years	9vHPV in f	females ageo	l 16–26 years	
			GMT			GMT	GMT noninferiority
Antibody	n	%°	(mMU/mL)	n	%	(mMU/mL)	or superiority
Anti-HPV 6	503	99.8	1703	328	99.7	901	
Anti-HPV 11	503	100	1292	332	100	707	
Anti-HPV 16	513	100	6934	329	100	3523	
Anti-HPV 18	516	99.8	2148	345	99.7	883	Females aged 9–15 years
Anti-HPV 31	506	100	1895	340	99.7	754	noninferior to females ageo
Anti-HPV 33	518	100	986	354	99.7	467	16–26 years ^b
Anti-HPV 45	518	99.8	708	368	99.5	272	
Anti-HPV 52	517	100	962	337	99.7	420	
Anti-HPV 58	516	100	1288	332	100	591	
GMT = Geometr	ric mean titer; n	nMU, milli-M	Aerck units				
			by cLIA at month 7				

		9v1	HPV				
Antibody	n	%	GMT (mMU/mL)	n	%	GMT (mMU/mL)	GMT noninferiority or superiority
Anti-HPV 6	273	100	1679	261	100	1566	
Anti-HPV 11	273	100	1316	261	100	1417	9vHPV
Anti-HPV 16	276	100	6740	270	100	6887	noninferior to 4vHPV ^b
Anti-HPV18	276	100	1957	269	100	1796	
Anti-HPV 31	276	100	1770	268	73.5	22	
Anti-HPV 33	275	100	937	269	20.4	4	
Anti-HPV 45	275	99.6	622	271	21.0	3	9vHPV superior to 4vHPV ^b
Anti-HPV 52	276	100	927	269	3.3	2	ιυ 4νπΓ ν
Anti-HPV 58	267	100	1349	261	54.8	9	

GMT = Geometric mean titer; mMU, milli-Merck units

^aData from Protocol 009, antibody measured by cLIA at month 7

^bP <0.001

^cPersonal communication, Alain Luxembourg, MD, PhD, September 2014, for anti-HPV 31, 33, 45, 52, 58

Outcome-related HPV type	Benefits	Design (# studies)	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Evidence type
	≥CIN2	$\int 4v HPV RCT (3)^a$	No serious	No serious	Serious ^e	No serious	2
HPV 6, 11, 16, 18	Cervical cancer	Supportive: 9vHPV	No serious	No serious	Serious ^e	No serious	3
	Anogenital warts	Randomized (2), Obs $(4)^b$	No serious	No serious	Serious ^e	No serious	2
HPV 31, 33, 45, 52,	≥CIN2	9vHPV Randomized (1) ^c	No serious	No serious	No serious ^e	No serious	1
58	Cervical cancer	Supportive: 9vHPV Obs (4) ^d	No serious	No serious	Serious ^e	No serious	2

^aData from Protocols 007, 013, 015

^bSupportive data from Protocols 001, 002, 003, 005, 007, 009

^cData from Protocol 001

^dSupportive data from Protocols 002, 003, 005, 007, 009

^eStarted with evidence type for females in the catch-up age group; not downgraded due to noninferior immunogenicity among females aged 9–15 years compared with females aged 16–26 years, and because efficacy data were from per protocol population

Table 11. 4vHPV RCT considered for 9vHPV GRADE for HPV 6, 11, 16, 18-related outcomes, per protocol population, males aged 16–26 years

Protocol	Population	No.	Outcome	Efficacy					
020	Malas agad 16 26 years	402	AIN2/3 ⁵	74.9%					
020	Males aged 16–26 years	2798	Anogenital warts ¹⁰	89.3%					
AIN2/3 = Anal int	AIN2/3 = Anal intraepithelial neoplasia grade 2 or 3								

	<u>9vHPV ir</u>	n males ag	<u>ed 16–26 years</u>	<u>9vHPV i</u>	<u>n females age</u>	ed 16-26 years	
Antibody	n	%	GMT (mMU/mL)	n	%	GMT (mMU/mL)	GMT noninferiority or superiority
Anti-HPV 6	847	99.6	782	708	99.6	704	• •
Anti-HPV 11	851	100	617	712	99.9	565	Males
Anti-HPV 16	899	100	3346	781	99.9	2788	noninferior to females
Anti-HPV 18	906	99.9	808	831	99.8	680	
GMT = Geometric ^a Heterosexual male ^b Data from Protoco	es	,	Merck units d by cLIA at month 7	1			

 $^{\circ}P < 0.001$

^dPersonal communication, Alain Luxembourg, MD, PhD, September 2014

Benefits	Design (# studies)	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Evidence type
Anal cancer	4vHPV RCT (1) ^a Supportive: 9vHPV	No serious	No serious	Serious ^{c,d}	No serious	3
Anogenital warts	Randomized (1), Obs $(1)^{b}$	No serious	No serious	Serious ^c	No serious	2

	9vHPV ir	n males ag	ed 9–15 years	9vHPV in f	females age	d 16–26 years	
Antibody	n	% ^c	GMT (mMU/mL)	n	%	GMT (mMU/mL)	GMT noninferiority or superiority
Anti-HPV 6	537	99.8	2083	328	99.7	901	• •
Anti-HPV 11	537	100	1486	332	100	707	Males aged 9–15 years
Anti-HPV 16	546	100	8683	329	100	3523	noninferior to females aged 16- 26 years ^b
Anti-HPV 18	544	100	2855	345	99.7	883	20 years
${}^{\mathrm{b}}P < 0.001$	col 002, antibo	ody measure	-Merck units ed by cLIA at month urg, MD, PhD, Sept				

	9vHPV	in males aged	9–15 years ^a	9vHPV in males aged 16–26 years^b			
			GMT			GMT	
Antibody	n	% ^c	(mMU/mL)	n	%	(mMU/mL)	
Anti-HPV 6	537	99.8	2083	847	99.6	782	
Anti-HPV 11	537	100	1486	851	100	617	
Anti-HPV 16	546	100	8683	899	100	3346	
Anti-HPV 18	544	100	2855	906	99.9	808	
GMT = Geometric me	ean titer; mMU, r	nilli-Merck units	3				
Data from Protocol 0)02. antibody mea	sured by cLIA a	t month 7				

(# studies)	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Evidence type
4vHPV RCT (1) ^a Supportive: 9vHPV	No serious	No serious	Serious ^c	No serious	3
Randomized (1), Obs $(2)^{b}$	No serious	No serious	Serious ^c	No serious	2
	4vHPV RCT (1) ^a Supportive: 9vHPV	4vHPV RCT (1) ^a No serious Supportive: 9vHPV	4vHPV RCT (1) ^a No serious No serious Supportive: 9vHPV	4vHPV RCT (1) ^a No serious No serious Serious ^c Supportive: 9vHPV	4vHPV RCT (1) ^a No serious No serious ^c No serious Supportive: 9vHPV

	Female	s and males aged 1	6–26 years	Females and males aged 9–15 years			
Harms	Protocol (Design)	Incidence in 9vHPV % (n/N)	Incidence in 4vHPV % (n/N)	Protocol (Design)	Incidence in 9vHPV % (n/N)	Incidence in 4vHPV % (n/N)	
Serious adverse event day 1–15		0.03 (2/7071) ^a	0.01 (1/7078)	·	0 (0/299)	0 (0/300)	
Serious adverse event any time	001 (Randomized)	0.03 (2/7071)	0.03 (2/7078)	009 (Randomized)	0 (0/299)	0 (0/300)	
Anaphylaxis day 1–15		0.01 (1/7071) ^b	0 (0/7078)		0 (0/299)	0 (0/300)	
Serious adverse event day 1–15		0.03 (1/2930)			0.02 (1/4793)		
Serious adverse event any time	002, 003 (Obs)	0.03 (1/2930)		002, 005, 007 (Obs)	0.02 (1/4793)		
Anaphylaxis day 1–15		0 (0/2930)			0 (0/4793)		
^a Determined to be vaccine-related; stud ^b Determined to be due to non-study me ^c Personal communication, Alain Luxer	dication						

Table 18. Evidence type for harms: 9vHPV in males and females Risk of						
Harms	Design (# studies)	bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Evidence type
Serious adverse event	Decidenciand (2) Obs $(4)^{a}$	No serious	No serious	No serious	Serious ^b	2
Anaphylaxis	Randomized (2), Obs $(4)^{a}$	No serious	No serious	No serious	Serious ^b	2
-	^a Data from Protocols 001, 002, 003, 005, 007, 009 ^b Downgraded by 1 for imprecision due to small sample size					

Comparison	Outcome	Design (# studies)	Findings	Evidence type	Overall
9vHPV	HPV 6, 11, 16, 18- related: ≥CIN2 Cervical cancer Anogenital warts	4vHPV RCT (3) ^a , 9vHPV Randomized (1), Obs (2) ^b	4vHPV has high efficacy; 9vHPV has noninferior immunogenicity for HPV 6, 11, 16, 18 and comparable risk for outcomes	2–3	
9VHPV vs. 4vHPV	HPV 31, 33, 45, 52, <u>58-related:</u> ≥CIN2 Cervical cancer	9vHPV Randomized (1) ^c , 9vHPV Obs (2) ^d	9vHPV has high efficacy for HPV 31, 33, 45, 52, 58-related outcomes	1–2	2 (Moderate)
	Serious adverse event	0.110 Decidenciated (1) Obs (2) ⁶	Few cases	2	
	Anaphylaxis	9vHPV Randomized (1), Obs (2) ^e	No vaccine-related cases	2	
^a Data from Protoco					
	om Protocols 001, 002, 003				
² Data from Protoco	om Protocols 002, 003				
^e Data from Protoco					

Comparison	Outcome	Design (# studies)	Findings	Evidence type	Overall
0-1101/	HPV 6, 11, 16, 18- related: Cervical cancer ≥CIN2 Anogenital warts	4vHPV RCT (3) ^a 9vHPV Randomized (2), Obs (4) ^b	(See findings in Table 19) Noninferior immunogenicity compared with females in age group in efficacy trials	2–3	
9vHPV vs. 4vHPV	HPV 31, 33, 45, 52, 58- <u>related:</u> Cervical cancer ≥CIN2	9vHPV Randomized (1) ^c 9vHPV Randomized (1), Obs (4) ^d	(See findings in Table 19) Noninferior immunogenicity compared with females in age group in efficacy trials	1–2	2 (Moderate)
	Serious adverse event	9vHPV Randomized (1), Obs (3) ^e	No cases	2	-
	Anaphylaxis	γ	No cases	2	
Supportive data t Data from Protoc Supportive data t	cols 007, 013, 015 from Protocols 001, 002, 003, col 001 from Protocols 002, 003, 005, cols 002, 005, 007, 009		·		

Comparison	Outcome	Design (# studies)	Findings	Evidence type	Overall
9vHPV vs.	HPV 6, 11, 16, 18- related: Anal cancer Anogenital warts	4vHPV RCT (1) ^a 9vHPV Randomized (1), Obs (1) ^b	4vHPV has high efficacy; 9vHPV has noninferior immunogenicity for HPV 6, 11, 16, 18 and comparable risk for outcomes	2–3	3 (Low)
4vHPV	Serious adverse event		Few cases	2	
	Anaphylaxis	9vHPV Randomized (1), Obs (2) ^c	No vaccine-related cases	2	
Data from Protoc	col 020				
	From Protocols 001, 003 cols 001, 002, 003				

Table 22. SumComparison	mary of evidence for 9vHI Outcome	PV vaccination of males in the routine Design (# studies)	age group Findings	Evidence type	Overall
9vHPV vs.	HPV 6, 11, 16, 18- related: Anal cancer Anogenital warts	4vHPV RCT (1) ^a 9vHPV Randomized (1), Obs (1) ^b	(See findings in table 21) Noninferior immunogenicity compared with females and males in age group in efficacy trials	2–3 3 (Lo	
4vHPV	Serious adverse event		No cases	2	
Anaphylaxis		Randomized (1), Obs (3) ^c	No cases		
^a Data from Protoc					
	From Protocols 001, 002				
[°] Data from Protoc	cols 002, 005, 007, 009				

Table 23. Consideration	ons for formulating recommendations for 9vHPV
Key factors	Comments
Evidence type for benefits and harms	 9vHPV evidence from a randomized trial comparing 9vHPV with 4vHPV in approximately 14,000 females aged 16–26 years, immunobridging studies, and randomized trials comparing 4vHPV with placebo Evidence type 2 (moderate) for females Evidence type 3 (low) for males
Balance of benefits versus harms	• Benefits outweigh harms
Values	• ACIP HPV Work Group placed high value on prevention of outcomes due to HPV 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, 58
Cost-effectiveness	• 9vHPV is cost saving compared to 4vHPV ¹¹
Summary	Category A recommendation

E.

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