You Are the Key to HPV Prevention

Description: About 80 million people in the United States are currently infected with the human papillomavirus (HPV). Almost all sexually active people will get HPV at some time in their lives and most will never even know it. Luckily, most infections clear after about one year. If the infection is not eliminated by the immune system it can potentially lead to cervical, oropharyngeal, anal or genital cancer. Fortunately, there is a vaccine to prevent HPV.

This course will discuss in detail what HPV is, how it is transmitted and its role in oropharyngeal cancer. The course will then focus on HPV prevention through vaccination and provide tips and resources on how to effectively talk to patients and parents about the virus and vaccine. Oropharyngeal cancers related to HPV are on the rise and dental hygienists are key providers in primary prevention by promoting the importance of the HPV vaccine. If we could reduce or eliminate HPV infections, we could also lessen a tremendous cancer burden.

Learning objectives: Participants will learn to:

- Describe why HPV vaccination is important for cancer prevention
- Identify the appropriate HPV vaccination schedule and recommendations based on patient age
- Develop self-efficacy in delivering effective HPV vaccination recommendations
- Identify reassuring, confident, and concise responses to parental questions about HPV vaccination

About our speaker

Jennifer Frustino, DDS, PhD, is a staff clinician and the director of oral cancer screening and diagnostics in the Division of Oral Oncology and Maxillofacial Prosthetics in the Department of Dentistry at Erie County Medical Center. Her previous roles include serving as an attending dentist and associate in surgery at the Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women’s Cancer Institute in Boston. Dr. Frustino’s areas of expertise are oral medicine; management of dental care to oncology patients; and screening, diagnosis and management of oral cancer and premalignant lesions.

She held a post-doctoral fellowship, cancer prevention and population sciences, and did her residency in dental oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo. She earned a PhD in Cancer Pathology and Prevention from the University at Buffalo, Roswell Park Division; DDS from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine; MS in Natural Sciences from the State University of New York at Buffalo, Roswell Park Division; and BA in Biology and Psychology from the University of Rochester.