Oropharyngeal Cancer (OPC) and HPV Prevention in Children

5 Key Points that Dental Professionals Need to Know

1. OPC is also known as squamous cell carcinoma of the pharynx, including the base of the tongue and tonsils.

2. OPC incidence is rapidly increasing. This cancer is hard to detect before it spreads.

3. 8 out of 10 people will contract the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) at some point in their lives and some will develop cancer. Everyone is at risk.

4. HPV causes 70% of OPCs in the US. HPV type 16 (which is covered by HPV vaccine) causes 60% of all OPCs.

5. You are the key to cancer prevention. Recommend the HPV vaccine to boys and girls ages 11 – 12. Every visit on or after the 9th birthday is an opportunity to recommend the vaccine.

American Academy of Pediatrics
Dedicated to the Health of All Children

For More Information: aap.org/oralhealth • aap.org/hpvtoolkit • email: HPV@aap.org