HPV and CERVICAL CANCER

With: Zyxxen Darah
Hey! I know how to play it safe, given all my faults.

Oh, quit complaining, it won't be that bad.

I hope there's not a lot of people.

"Won't be that bad," you say.
Alright, you do make a good point.

You have to admit, this program really reached out to the community.

Hello! I’d like to thank everyone for showing up to this convention held specifically for the Oakbot community.

Ugh, when is this thing over? Ugh, ugh, ugh.

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Ugh, ugh.

This doctor they got might be quite informative!
Now without further ado, it is my greatest honor to introduce Dr. Darrow to the stage.

((awkward silence))
Hello everyone! My name is Zyken Darah but you can just call me Dr. Darah.

I'm so happy to see so many people show up for this presentation of mine.

Now, if you are familiar with my research, you know that I have been on the topic of HPV... specifically I've been researching.

Excuse me! I have a quick question!

Ummmm, yes...

...you...
Okay, so like what is an HPV? I've never heard about that.

Ah yes great question! (even though I was going to explain anyways)

Alright, so what is HPV?

HPV's are a group of more than 150 viruses where more than 40 of these viruses are transferred through skin-to-skin contact when engaged in vaginal, anal, and oral sex.

Well for starters HPV stands for human papillomavirus.
HPVs are one of the most common sexually transmitted infections in the United States. Studies have also shown that at any given time, 42.5% of women have genital HPV infections whereas less than 7% of adults have oral HPV infections.

There are also two forms of HPV known as low risk and high risk.

**Type 6 & Type 11**
(low risk HPV)

Low risk HPV’s do not cause cancer. The most common types of low risk HPV’s are types 6 and 11.

These two types generally cause genital warts, but they usually don’t cause cancer.

High risk HPV’s on the other hand DO cause cancer. The most common types of high risk HPV’s are types 16 & 18.

Type 16 & Type 18
(high risk HPV)

These two types are responsible for more than half of all HPV related cancers in the USA.

Now the cancer that I’ll be focusing on is cervical cancer.
Now my research team and I have been mainly looking at women in the criminal justice system dealing with cervical cancer.

We have found that women within the criminal justice system are 4-5 times more likely to get cervical cancer than nonincarcerated women.

4-5 times more likely

There are some factors that these women go through that limits their knowledge about cervical cancers...

These include drugs, mental health, homelessness etc.

Since we already discussed HPV's & cervical cancer and the risks they hold, plus how women in the criminal justice system have a very low understanding of HPV & cervical cancer prevention...

...we can now discuss how to prevent cervical cancer.

There are several ways to prevent cervical cancer, and the first and most important one we'll be looking at is cervical cancer screenings.

Cervical Cancer Screenings

These screenings are also known as PAP smear or PAP test and they are mainly for women 21 to 65 within 3 year intervals for each screening.

21 yrs

65 yrs
Now some may ask –

ARE PAP SCREENINGS THE SAME AS PELVIC EXAMS???

Well many women tend to assume that when a doctor checks their pelvic area it includes cervical cancer screenings.

So do you look for cervical cancer as well?

Oh no, you would need to do a PAP screening to determine that.

Although these two are different, they do share similar tools. Such as: vaginal specula, cyto brushes, and ayres spatula...

...A pelvic exam and a PAP screening are two different procedures.

PAP smear  Pelvic exam

PAP smears are performed by doctors, where they gently remove some of the vaginal cells, and send them to a lab to see if there are abnormalities.

Alright, here's your supply vagina.

Why are there so many?
People from the ages of 9 years old to 26 years old can get a vaccine that protects them from low risk and high risk HPV's.

Now let's recap the essential parts of what we talked about today...

- There are high risk and low risk HPV's
- Low risk HPV types 6 and 11 usually give genital warts
- High risk HPV types 16 and 18 usually are the leading cause of cervical cancer.
- Women in the criminal justice system are 4-5 times more likely to get cervical cancer
- PAP smears and pelvic exams are different despite having similar tools and procedures.
- There are vaccines for preventing low and high risk HPV's

They would have to get 2 or 3 shots, the second shot is taken 2 months after the first, the third shot is taken 4 months after the second shot.

I have to leave pretty soon, so if you have any questions concerning this information...

...you can get answers in my new comic book!

The end
This comic was imagined and drawn by James Walker.

Scientific content was generated by Joi Wickliffe of the Sexual Health Empowerment Team at The University of Kansas School of Medicine (www.kumc.edu/she). Faculty oversight was provided by Megha Ramaswamy. Production was made possible by Lisa Harlan-Williams and The University of Kansas Cancer Center (www.kucancercenter.org) through the National Cancer Institute Cancer Center Support Grant P30 CA165824. Funding for the Sexual Health Empowerment Team was provided by the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute grant ROI CA181047 to Megha Ramaswamy. Graphics were supported by Christopher Neal and the Kansas Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center Graphics and Illustration Core (NIH U54 HD 090216).

For inquiries please contact Joi Wickliffe at jwickliffe@kumc.edu or James Walker at ddp9335@gmail.com.

For more information about Human Papillomavirus (HPV): https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/index.html