

# Yet Another Expensive Vaccination Programme

If I was spending 6 months in a shanty town in the tropics, hours from medical care, I'd get my shots for typhoid, yellow fever and tetanus. Staying in clean cold Dunedin, home of NZ's best medical school, there's no way. Why? Because the level of benefit, the risks and the unknowns don't match up. Of course you can still get tetanus in Dunedin. Hoorah for antibiotics.

The Government's brand-new 5-year \$177M HPV vaccination programme is aimed at girls. The hype: 30 lives saved a year some time in the future (fingers crossed). We could pay for an extra 350 experienced hospital doctors or 600 senior nurses a year, or for 2300 extra joint-replacement surgeries annually, instead of gifting it to a drug company. Around 29 out of 30 people will naturally clear HPV from their body anyway.

To help you decide if you want to vaccinate your daughter here are the questions to ask your health professional. Keep handy!

**Question 1:** What's the lifetime risk



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of my daughter being diagnosed with cervical cancer, and what does the vaccine lower that risk to? (Hint: the starting risk will be quite small, maybe 1/150, and the vaccine may make it a tad smaller, to maybe 1/300).

**Question 2:** Where is cervical cancer in the top ten causes of death for women. (Comment: the biggest risks to your daughter's health are the ones to be most concerned

about. Hint: cervical cancer is definitely not in the top ten.)

**Question 3:** Is the vaccine safe and effective in the long term? (Comment: it's so new that there is no clinical evidence – just computerised guesswork – that it will be safe or effective 25 years from now when it is supposed to be saving lives. Unknowns galore.)

**Question 4:** So my daughter won't need pap smears later on? (Comment: The \$450/shot vaccine is not powerful enough to reduce the need for regular smear tests. If vaccinated women get complacent, real problems may occur.)

If we were serious about preventing cancer, a healthy diet and exercise-promotion package with free gym memberships, access to nutritionists and chiropractors, cooking classes, motivational experts and personal trainers would be great. Note that the publicly funded non-drug-based Healthy Eating Healthy Action programme gets a measly \$12M a year.

This content reflects personal opinions of Tat Loo, a Dunedin-based Doctor of Chiropractic. He may be contacted on 474-0030 or at [info@bodymindspine.co.nz](mailto:info@bodymindspine.co.nz)

## Public Presentations by Dr Tat Loo

**"The Innate Intelligence of the Body": Sat 10 May, 1pm**

**"Successful Aging from Newborn to 101 Years Old": Sun 11 May, 1pm**

Learn about how the chiropractic concepts of health, performance and improved spinal function can help you.

At the Dunedin Holistic Expo: Dunedin Community Gallery, Princes St (near the Octagon)

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