

cauliflower – like

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The cauliflower-like lesion is at the vaginal wall, blocking the opening of vagina. The same appearance can occur on various organs such as neck of womb, oro-nasal cavity, and anus. This growth needs 2 to 10 years to be visible. It can be as small as a pin-head or grow as big as a soccer ball. The low-risk (non-oncogenic) types 6 or 11 Human Papillomaviruses (HPV) cause benign skin lesion or low-grade cervical cell abnormalities, genital warts and laryngeal papillomas. On the other hand, there are 13 high-risk types of papillomaviruses which can cause high-grade cell abnormalities and evolvment to anogenital, lung, oral and pharyngeal cancers. Sexual activity and direct finger-genital contact are some of the possible ways of transmission. Once HPV invades the skin through micro-abrasion from sexual activity, the virus begins to make proteins. Two of the proteins made by high-risk HPVs, E6 and E7 oncoproteins, interfere with normal functions in the cell, enabling the cell to grow in an uncontrolled manner and lead to cell immortalization. Many times these infected cells are recognized by the immune system and eliminated. Sometimes, these infected cells are not destroyed, and a persistent infection results in 5% to 10% of infected women. As the persistently infected cells continue to grow, they may develop mutations that promote even more cell growth, this condition would lead to the development of precancerous lesion, which eventually progresses to invasive cancer. It is responsible for development of abnormal epithelial growth and tumor. Prevention can be achieved by using available vaccines.

