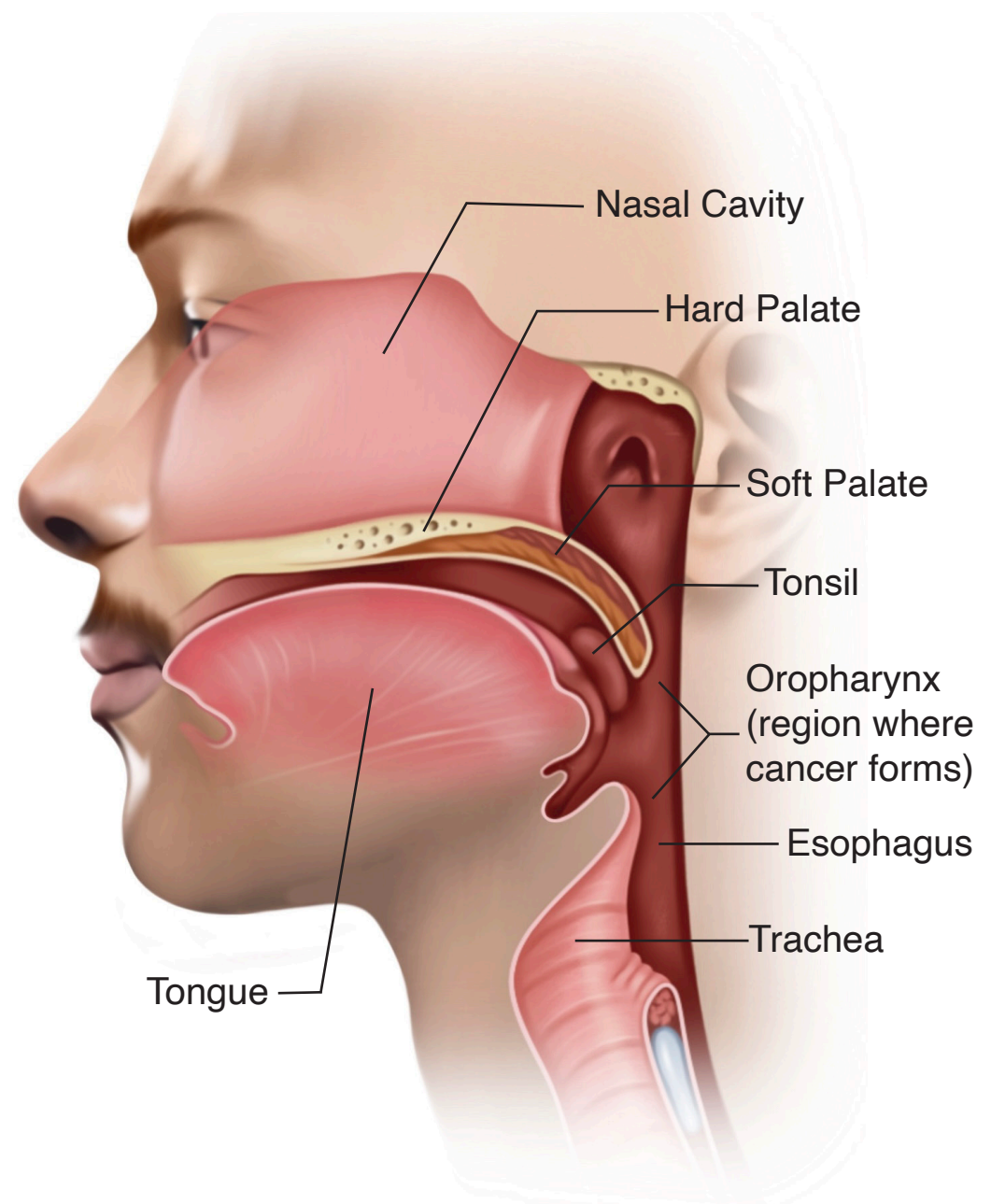


# Oral Human Papillomavirus (Oral HPV) Infection

Oral HPV infection is the most common sexually transmitted infection. Oral HPV affects the mouth and is found in about 10% of men and 3.6% of women. Most cases of HPV go away within 1-2 years, but in some people the infection lasts longer and can cause complications.

Oral HPV can lead to cancers of the oropharynx (back of the throat, tongue, and tonsils). HPV causes 60% to 70% of oropharyngeal cancer cases in the United States, although this may be a combination of HPV, tobacco, alcohol, and other contributing factors.

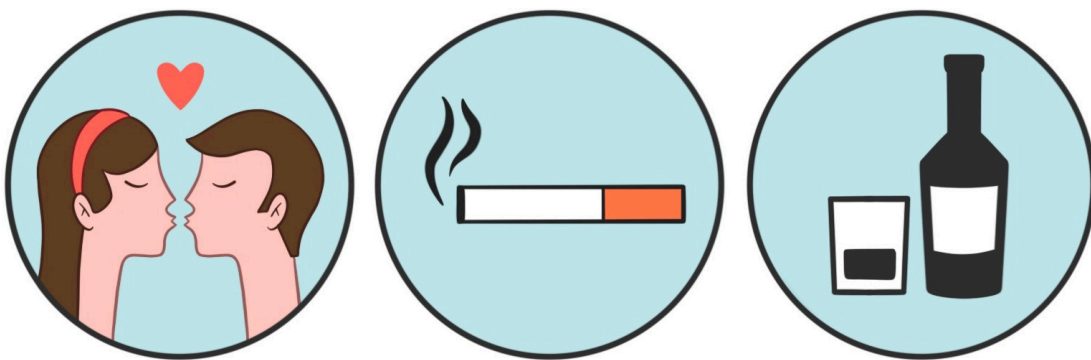


## What are the Symptoms of HPV?

- Developing oropharyngeal (back of the throat) cancer
- High pitched wheezing breaths
- Coughing blood
- Trouble swallowing
- Persistent sore throat and hoarseness
- Lesions on the tonsils
- Abnormal lumps
- Pain or swelling in the jaw.

## What Causes HPV?

- Oral sex and deep kissing
- Having multiple sexual partners
- Using tobacco or alcohol regularly
- Having a compromised or weakened immune system.



## How to Prevent and Treat HPV

- The best way to prevent HPV is vaccination. The CDC recommends vaccination at the ages of 11 or 12, but getting the vaccine at any time is beneficial.
- The virus will likely clear on its own within 1 or 2 years
- If the virus results in Cancer it can be treated with Surgery, Chemotherapy, and Radiation

