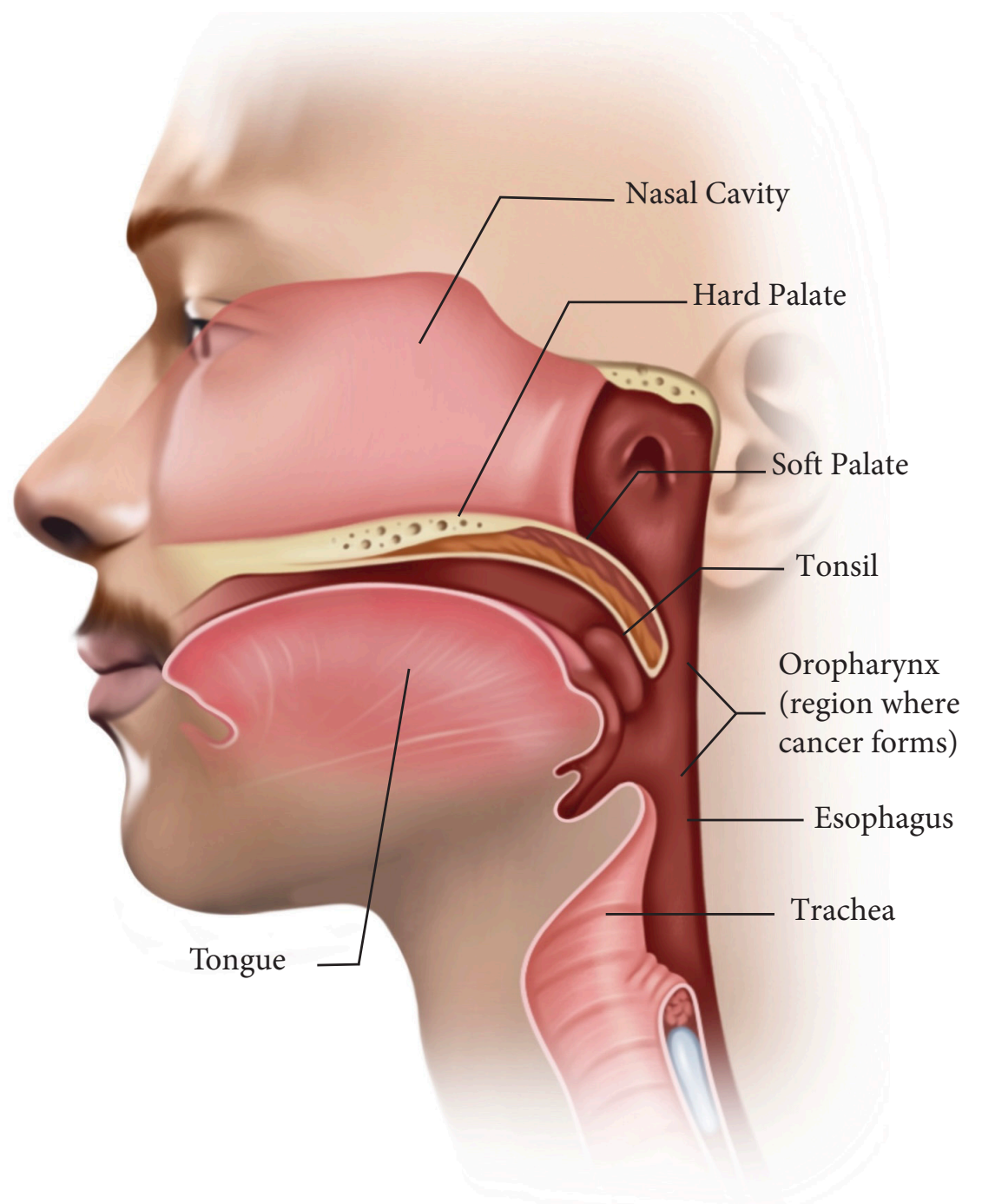


Oral Human Papillomavirus Infection aka Oral HPV

Oral human papillomavirus infection, commonly known as Oral HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI).

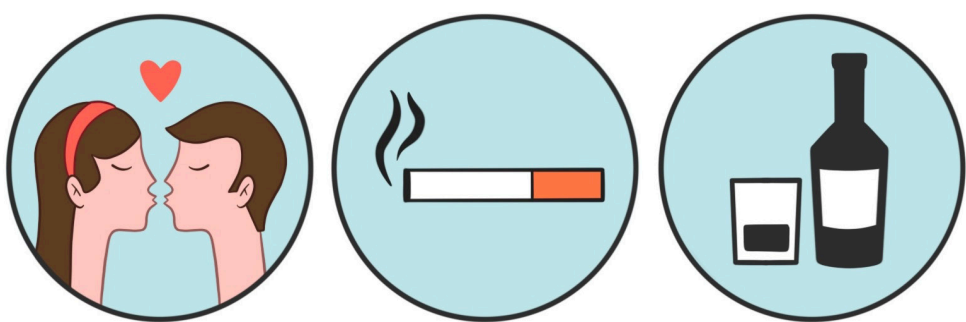
Oral HPV affects the mouth and is found in about 10% of men and 3.6% of women. Most cases of HPV go away within 1-2 years, but in some people the infection lasts longer and can cause complications.

Oral HPV can lead to cancers of the oropharynx (back of the throat, tongue, and tonsils). HPV is associated with 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-Associated Oropharyngeal Cancer?

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



Risk factors for Oral HPV infection

- Oral sex and deep kissing
- Multiple sexual partners
- A compromised or weakened immune system caused by other health conditions or drug use.

How to Prevent and Treat HPV-Associated Oropharyngeal Cancer

- The best way to prevent HPV is with a vaccination. The CDC recommends vaccination at the ages of 11 or 12, but getting the vaccine at any time is safe
- Talk with any sexual partners about their STI history and share your own
- If Oral HPV results in cancer it can be treated with surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy

