Throat Cancer from a Virus? Facts YOU should Know

Can I get throat cancer from a virus?
YES. Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus with more than 100 types (only a few can cause cancer).

LOW-RISK HPV TYPE
Cause warts or bumps in either the:
- Mouth
- Throat
- Or genitals

HIGH-RISK HPV TYPE
Cause cancer in these places:
- Women: throat, cervix, vagina, anus
- Men: throat, anus, penis

How do I catch HPV?
HPV is passed by direct contact during sex
- Your partner must have HPV infection to catch it
- Oral, anal, or vaginal sex
- It may even be passed through open mouth kissing

For about 1-2 of every 100 people, the virus stays and has a chance to cause cancer
- Only for high-risk types
- Takes from 10-30 years or more years to get throat cancer

Is HPV common?
- It is the most common sexually transmitted disease in America
- In most cases, the body fights off the virus

What is HPV-related throat cancer?
By throat cancer, we mean these spots:
- Tonsils
- The base (the very back) of the tongue

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