

FDA approves Cervarix after two-year delay

The [AP](#) (10/17, Perrone) reported, "GlaxoSmithKline said Friday US regulators approved its vaccine Cervarix to prevent the leading cause of cervical cancer in women, following a two-year delay." The "FDA had requested more data on muscular and neurological problems, which turned out to be unrelated to the vaccine." Now, Glaxo can "compete against Merck's billion-dollar selling vaccine Gardasil, which has been on the US market since 2006." The AP noted, "Cervarix's effectiveness against extra strains of the [human papilloma] virus could help differentiate it from Gardasil, which protects against HPV 16 and 18, but not other cancerous strains." Still, Merck's Gardasil "also defends against two HPV types that cause 90 percent of genital warts, which Cervarix does not target."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/17, Dooren) pointed out that Cervarix is approved for use in girls and women ages 10 to 25. The FDA also said it would require a post-marketing safety study to gauge the outcome of pregnancies in women who receive Cervarix.

[AFP](#) (10/16) noted that Glaxo also said "that the vaccine, which is administered in three doses over a maximum of six months, would be available in the United States by the end of the year."