The project described was supported by the National Center for Research Resources and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health, through Grant UL1 TR000153. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.
So /f_i a heads out to meet her friends for some girl time...

Bye Babe...

Bye! Love you!

Hola!

Hola! How are you and your baby boy Diego?

Diego is growing bigger every day! Fernando is staying home with him right now.

Aww... Fernando is such a good Papa!
Fernando has grown up and changed so much now that he is a father.

You are so lucky! My new man is giving me problems...

Qué pasó?

He wants to have sex but...

I am worried about all the women he has been with in the past.

Relax, Carla! Just use a condom and it will protect you from all that stuff.

No! Haven’t you heard? There are some diseases that condoms don’t stop.
My doctor told me that you can still be exposed to certain diseases like **HPV**, even without a condom.

H... P... What??

Human Papilloma Virus! Supposedly it causes **cervical cancer** down there... some people even get **genital warts**!

**OH MY GOSH!**
Are you serious???

Well I am glad Fernando and I are in a serious relationship. I do not need to worry about that stuff anymore.
Chica, just be careful...

Enough about HP... whatever. Let’s shop!!!

Sofia and her friends begin a fun afternoon of shopping.
Hey! Is that Fernando over there?

Oh! I did not know he was coming?

WAIT!
Who is that with him?!

I can’t believe this! I need to get out of here!
So \( f_i \) goes back home.

Tía Lettie!

Hola! Are you here to take Diego? Fernando left him with me earlier.

Oh...

What’s wrong mija? I can tell something is bothering you.

I think Fernando is cheating on me...

Oh mija, I am so sorry! Qué pasó?

I saw him with another girl!
Pobrecita! That is horrible!

How can I ever trust him again?

Hermana, I do not want to upset you, but have you been protecting yourself?

Wait... what do you mean?

I mean using condoms and getting regular Pap smears from the doctor so you can protect yourself from STIs.
Oh my gosh Elena! I cannot believe you are asking me that!

Sophia, I know this can be awkward but it’s important and I want you to be safe.

In fact, I found out a girl on my soccer team has HPV.

What?!?!? How?

HPV can spread through sex even if you use a condom. People can have HPV without even knowing it.

Sofia, the point is that you need to take the right steps to protect yourself. It can never hurt to be on the safe side.

Let’s make a doctor’s appointment so she can tell you more.

Okay Elena.
Later at the doctor’s office...

Hello Sofia, I understand you wanted to be tested for STI’s and find out more information about HPV.

Yes doctor. Can you explain to me what HPV is?

Of course! HPV stands for Human Papillomavirus and it can be passed from person to person through sex.

Having multiple sexual partners will increase your risk of contracting HPV.

Once a woman gets the virus, it can cause genital warts or even cervical cancer. That is why it is so important to have a yearly Pap smear.

Is there any way I can protect myself from HPV?
In order for the vaccine to be effective, you need to get 3 shots at 3 different times. If you do not get all 3 shots, the vaccine will not fully protect you.

Yes, there is a vaccine that can prevent most types of HPV.

Can I get the HPV vaccine?

Yes you can! It is recommended for men and women between the ages of 9 and 26. There is even a program that will help you get the vaccine for free!

Hmm... it is good to know that I am protected...

I will have the nurse come in with your vaccine.

See you in 2 months for your second shot!
Sofia goes back home to talk with Fernando...

FERNANDO! Who was that girl I saw with you at the mall today?!

What?! I just ran into an old friend...

How can I trust you now?

Calmate Sofia! You are acting crazy.

I cannot calm down! I just came from the doctor’s office to protect myself from STI’s your “friend” might have, like HPV!

I need to go.
Fernando meets his friend to play soccer.

Hey Fernando! I wasn’t sure if you were going to make it today!

Hey man, Sofia saw me with my Ex today and now she thinks I am cheating on her. We got in a huge fight.

She freaked out and went to the doctor’s to get tested for HPV!

Oh shoot! I’ve heard of HPV before!

It’s no joke, guys can get HPV too. HPV can give you warts or even cancer in your junk!

Qué?

OH HELL NO!
I know! I am not letting that happen to me. I got the HPV vaccine.

HPV vaccine?

Yeah, there is a vaccine to prevent HPV. It’s not just for girls.

Wow, well I better go talk to Sofia.
Back at the house...

I cannot believe I saw Fernando with that other girl today. I don’t even know what to think!

Then my sister had me go to the doctor to get the HPV vaccine. I don’t know if all this is necessary...

It’s better to be on the safe side Sofia. It is good that you saw the doctor and got the HPV vaccine.

Besides, do you know if you want to be with Fernando forever?

You are right. It’s better to take precautions - no matter what happens between me and Fernando. Thanks chicas!
Sofia hangs up the phone and Fernando comes home from soccer.

No matter what he says, at least now I know I am protected by the HPV vaccine.
an ounce of PREVENTION is better than a pound of cure.

the end.
What is HPV?

Human papilloma virus (also called HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI). There are more than 40 HPV types that can infect the genital areas of males and females. These HPV types can also infect the mouth and throat. Most people who become infected with HPV do not even know they have it.

How do people get HPV?

HPV is passed through genital-to-genital contact, most often during vaginal and anal sex. HPV can be passed on even when the infected partner has no signs or symptoms.

What are the potential health problems associated with HPV?

In 90% of cases, the body’s immune system clears HPV naturally within 2 years. However, when HPV infections do not clear, they can cause cervical cancer and genital warts.

How does HPV cause cervical cancer or genital warts?

HPV can cause normal cells on infected skin to turn abnormal. Most of the time, you cannot see or feel these changes!
How common is HPV?

Some studies suggest that an estimated 15% of men and women between the ages of 15 and 49 are currently infected with genital HPV.

How can people prevent HPV?

Vaccines can protect males and females against some of the common types of HPV that can lead to disease and cancer. These vaccines are given in 3 shots. It is important to get all 3 doses to get the best protection. Vaccines are recommended for males and females 11-26 years old.

Does using a condom prevent HPV?

Condoms may lower the risk of HPV, but HPV can infect areas that are not covered by a condom. To be most effective, condoms should be used with every sex act, from start to finish.

Is there a test for HPV?

Females should have regular Pap smears and cervical cancer screenings conducted by a doctor. There is no general test to check your HPV “status” for males and females.