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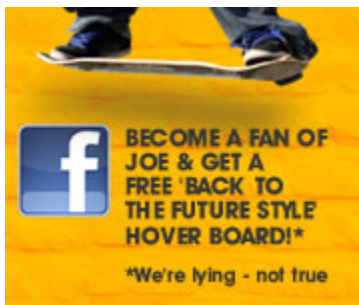
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## Oral sex a bigger cause of throat cancer than smoking - study

today at 8:52 am

**Scientists now believe that oral sex is a bigger cause of throat cancer than smoking for people under the age of 50.**

It's not good news for men who like to go in search of honey, as these findings warn that a virus spread during oral sex has now become quite common.

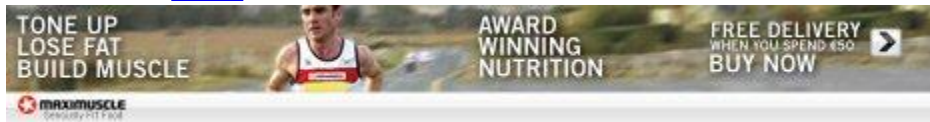
The human papilloma virus, spread during unprotected sex, is mostly known as the cause of 70pc of cervical cancers, but it can also lead to other cancers, like throat cancer.

Incredibly, the attitude towards oral sex from youngsters is a misconception. Most believe oral sex not to be "sex", as majority believes penile-vaginal and penile-anal contact as "sex." Only 20pc of college students who participated in a 2007 survey considered oral-genital contact to be sex.

The misunderstandings about oral sex have implications for the spread of viruses like HPV. "What is most strongly linked to oral HPV infection is the number of sexual partners someone has had in their lifetimes, in particular the number of individuals on whom they have performed oral sex," explained one of the researchers.

"The higher the number of partners that you've had, the greater the odds that you'd have an oral infection."

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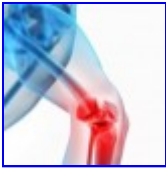
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