



**ICRH**

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

*Improving sexual and reproductive health  
through research, training and adapted interventions*



# Acceptance and uptake of the HPV-vaccine in Eldoret, Kenya

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# HPV vaccination

2007: introduction of the HPV vaccines

2000: HPV vaccine acceptance studies

Would you vaccinate  
against cervical cancer?

Pubmed: HPV vaccin\* accepta\*

- >600 hits over the last 10 years
- 5 publications a month



# HPV vaccine

Target group

STI

New (safety – protection)

Cost

Vaccine



# HPV vaccine acceptance studies

Developed countries

Cross-sectional (hypothetical)

Parents or young women



# HPV vaccine acceptance studies

Developed countries

Cross-sectional (hypothetical)

Parents or young women

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Developing country

Longitudinal, measure uptake

Include providers - organization



# HPV vaccination program in Eldoret, Kenya

Pilot HPV vaccination program:

- HPV vaccine acceptance study
- Longitudinal study, (+ uptake)
- Include nurses + program coordinator



# HPV vaccination program in Eldoret, Kenya

- Donation of 3000 vaccines
- 10 randomly selected schools
- Classes 4-8 (+/- 4000 girls)
- School-based promotion
- Hospital-based vaccination





# HPV vaccination program in Eldoret, Kenya

- Donation of 3000 vaccines
  - 10 randomly selected schools
  - Classes 4-8 (+/- 4000 girls)
  - School-based promotion
  - Hospital-based vaccination
  - Expiry date
- Opened up to the community







# HPV vaccine acceptance

Baseline study:

- Women with eligible daughter
  - Knowledge
  - *Informative session*
  - Attitudes
  - Acceptance: « Would you vaccinate your daughter? »





# HPV vaccine uptake

Follow-up study: quantitative

- Same women with eligible daughter
  - Status: « Did your daughter receive the vaccine? »
  - Reasons/difficulties
  - Information?





# HPV vaccination program evaluation

Follow-up study: qualitative

- 3 FGD with fathers
- 4 FGD with teachers
- 1 FGD with vaccinators
- 1 IDI with program coordinator





# Result: HPV vaccination in Eldoret, Kenya

## Baseline:

- 287 women
- 59.1% had heard of cervical cancer
- 88.1% accepted (4-5 Likert)

## Follow-up:

- 256 women
- 31.1% uptake
- 51.2% had wanted
- 17.7% decided not to





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# HPV vaccination in Eldoret, Kenya

## Follow-up: barriers

- Where and when? (30%)
- Side effects (27%)
- Lack of time (26%)
- Lack of vaccine info (15%)
- Partner opposed (13%)
- Transport cost (11%)





# HPV vaccination in Eldoret, Kenya

Vaccine uptake ~

- Baseline awareness
- Being well-informed (follow-up)





# HPV vaccination program evaluation

Follow-up: qualitative

- 3 FGD with fathers
- 4 FGD with teachers
- 1 FGD with vaccinators
- 1 IDI with program manager







# Knowledge regarding cervical cancer

Teachers and fathers:

- Causes
  - Sexual activities
  - Modern lifestyle (urban vs rural)
- Not openly discussed – lack of understanding (« ignorance causes cancer »)

Vaccinators (nurses):

- Before the program: not aware of HPV





# Knowledge regarding HPV vaccination program

## Teachers

- «We took it lightly.»
- «We were told 'you tell this children to take their forms to the parents, those who are interested can go to MTRH for this. It was just as simple as that. We didn't think much about it.»





# Attitudes towards the vaccines

- Distrust: vaccines, HPV vaccine, health system
- Not important (“disease of the rich”)
- Transport cost





# Attitudes towards the vaccines

«Now that we are informed... »

- Create awareness (in school, church, market place)
- Teachers: support promotion
  - Curriculum, girls only
- Involvement of men
- Support from the government





# Attitudes towards the vaccines

## Nurses

- «Yeah, in the beginning of the program, people were not willing actually, but towards the end, you see most of them are now coming asking for the vaccine.»





# HPV vaccination in Eldoret, Kenya

## Program coordinator

- Role of the head teacher
- Never the whole teacher corps
  - Communication (stigma)
- Public vs private schools
  - *Parents' awareness*
  - *Transport*
  - *Teachers' motivation*





# Conclusions

- High interest in the HPV vaccine
- Importance promotion
  - Awareness
  - Side effects
  - Include men
- Diffusion theory
- At schools: teachers = health worker?
- Inequality?





# ICRH

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## Thank you

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# HPV vaccination in Eldoret, Kenya

The vaccines were donated to Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital by Axios Healthcare Development (AHD) as part of the Gardasil Access Program, which was made possible by a pledge from Merck & Co., Inc.

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