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

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

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- 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? »
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
HPV vaccination in Eldoret, Kenya

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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?
Thank you

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HPV vaccination in Eldoret, Kenya

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