

ASK FOR WOMEN'S OPINION FIRST

Introduction

In 2006, the FDA approved a "new vaccine for prevention of cervical cancer and other diseases in females caused by human papilloma virus." The news raised hopes for the eradication of cervical cancer. Professionals recommended new strategies. Only few voices called for caution against over-enthusiasm and change of Pap test screening. The authors of this abstract have been involved in the improvement of cervical cancer screening and presented their results on several EB meetings in the past.

Material and Methods

One of the objectives of the mission of the Global Academy for Women's Health is to help women making educated decisions on issues of their health. In 2006 and 2007, we evaluated most of the published literature on the cervical cancer prevention strategies and conducted a limited survey among women at risk to learn more what they think about Pap test.

Results

In the US, approximately, 1 out of 2,000 women infected with HP virus developed invasive cervical cancer, but almost all cervical cancers (10,000 per year) were infected with HPV ("oncogenic" and other subtypes). These numbers suggest a symbiotic rather than a casual association; HPV infecting the susceptible cancer and promoting its growth thereafter. The Survey showed that 99% women were aware of Pap test, but only 70% participated (regularly or irregularly). The reasons for avoiding the test were cited as "uncomfortable" and "waiting for the result is stressful". However 93% would participate if an accurate and more convenient home test is available.

Conclusion:

HPV vaccination is justified but its marketing strategy needs a more realistic approach. A home test added to HPV vaccination could be the future strategy that will embrace all women at risk.

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