Parental Acceptability of HPV Vaccination

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Introduction

- The primary risk factor for cervical cancer is persistent infection with oncogenic subtypes of human papillomavirus (HPV)
- The development of a prophylactic vaccine to prevent infection with oncogenic types of HPV is an important step in reducing cervical cancer incidence and mortality
- Data suggest that relatively few (12%–26%) adolescent females have initiated the 3-shot HPV series
- Health-enhancing behaviors (such as healthy diet, physical activity) are commonly associated with one another; thus, it is hypothesized that parents who practice healthy lifestyle behaviors will also be more likely to accept immunization against disease for their children
- The primary purpose of this study is to report on national acceptability of the HPV vaccine among U.S. adults with female children in the household and to investigate health behavior correlates of vaccine acceptability.

Methods

Procedure and Sample

- Data were drawn from the 2007 Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS)
- National probability survey of 7,674 U.S. adults
- One-time telephone or mailed survey
- N = 1,383 individuals who reported having a female child under the age of 18 years in their household

Measures

Acceptability of HPV Vaccine

- A vaccine to prevent the HPV infection is recommended for girls aged 11–12 if you had a daughter that age, would you have her get it? (no, not sure/it depends, yes)

Demographics

- Sex: 52% female
- Age: mean = 40 years
- Race/ethnicity: 59% white
- Education: 25% college graduates
- Income: 47% < $50,000
- Marital status: 70% married
- Health care coverage: 78%

Medical History

- Personal cancer history
- Family cancer history
- Ever treated for genital warts
- History of HPV infection (women only)

HPV Knowledge and Cancer Beliefs

- Ever heard of the HPV vaccine
- Ever heard of HPV
- Cancer curability
- Preventability
- Cancer prevention information overload

Health Behaviors

- Smoking
- Physical activity in past month
- Past year use of “complementary, alternative, or unconventional therapies”
- Pap test in past 3 years

Results

Cross-tabulations and logistic regression models were used to examine correlates of HPV vaccine acceptability. The logistic regression models were adjusted for age, sex, income, education, smoking status, physical activity, past year use of complementary, alternative, or unconventional therapies, and Pap test in past 3 years.

Conclusions

- Among participants, a significant minority were undecided or unwilling to have an 11–12 year old daughter receive the HPV vaccine.
- Vaccine acceptability was higher among smokers, physically active individuals, and those who did not report use of CAM therapies.
- Further research is needed to better understand how existing health habits may influence the uptake of HPV vaccination and other cancer prevention strategies.
- There is a need for additional education and provision of information regarding the potential benefits and risks of the HPV vaccine.

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