

6th Euro Global Summit and Expo on Vaccines & Vaccination

August 17-19, 2015 Birmingham, UK

HPV vaccination in the Middle East

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ruman papillomavirus (HPV) infection is the most common sexually transmitted infection worldwide; males can be at the ${f 1}$ same risk for this infection as females. High-risk HPV subtypes are associated with various female cancers; for example, HPV is responsible for 99% of all cases of cervical cancer. HPV also causes 60-90% of vaginal cancers and around 40% of vulvar cancers. In males HPV infection can cause up to 40% of penile cancers. In both sexes HPV is associated with 40-70% of head and neck cancers and up to 80% of anal cancers. Low-risk HPV subtypes (e.g., HPV 6 and 11) cause genital warts, which affect both males and females and have a major impact on quality of life. In 2008, the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi (HAAD) included HPV vaccination in the Abu Dhabi Extended Program of Immunization for girls entering grade 11. Abu Dhabi State is the first state in the Middle East and Arab countries to introduce HPV vaccination in the public sector. An awareness and training campaign among health care providers was organized by HAAD, and an extensive media campaign was also run. Initially, the uptake of HPV vaccination in Abu Dhabi State was low (50%); it later increased to 80% and now is approaching 95%. In our published research on acceptability of HPV vaccination among women in the UAE we found that more than one third of the women had some knowledge of HPV vaccination. Encouragingly, 80% of those who had heard about HPV vaccination were willing to be vaccinated themselves, and 87% would recommend vaccination to relatives and friends. The most important factors affecting the uptake of the vaccine negatively were training health care providers and informing women about the exact nature of HPV infection. Our results suggest that there are no significant cultural or religious barriers to HPV vaccination in the UAE. Vaccine safety and recommendation by a doctor (36% each) were the factors most likely to enhance the uptake of HPV vaccination in our sample of women. Regarding boys we surveyed male university students in the UAE and our results showed that overall knowledge of HPV and acceptability of vaccination against this infection are low. Marital status and sexual activity are associated with greater knowledge of HPV infection but have no effect on the acceptability of HPV vaccination. We believe that Abu Dhabi has set a very good example of successful introduction of the HPV vaccination program in schools. There were many challenges and wrong believes among both health care providers and policy makers about the acceptability of HPV vaccination among women & men in the middle east, our research showed that none of these were right.

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Avian influenza virus new phases of old disease: A review

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Poultry industry is the second largest industry of the Pakistan however, the major constraints of the industry are diseases particularly Avian Influenza also called Bird flu. Avian Influenza is caused by Avian influenza virus (AIV) belongs to Orthomyxoviridae family. The genome of this virus comprised eight segments and mutation of these segments resulted in the re-emergence of new variants. On the basis of antigenic properties AIV is classified into 16 HA and 9 NA resulting in 144 subtypes. There are two types of AIV on the basis of pathogenicity LPAI and HPAI among these subtypes H5, H7 and H9 are highly pathogenic. Infection occurs in wide variety of avian species including village as well as commercial poultry. It is transmitted through direct and indirect methods. In Pakistan, in North-West Frontier Province 1993 first outbreak was reported in chickens later on reoccurrence of this disease in 1995 to 2003 caused heavy loss in poultry sector. Towards the end, it is concluded that these genetic variations results in the re-emergence of new outbreaks that lead to panzootic infection. Poultry farmers, farm workers and veterinarian are at high risk to this disease.

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