

CHALLENGES AND FACTS ON HPV VACCINATION IN ROMANIA



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Introduction

- Romania has one of the highest prevalence of the cervix cancer among the countries of EU
- In the last 10 years no specific serological survey regarding the prevalence of the HPV carriers was conducted
- In November 2008 the decision makers and responsible from the Ministry of Health decided to introduce HPV vaccination
 - target group – girls of 12-13 years of age
 - no important information campaign preceded the vaccination itself
 - very low acceptance of the vaccine by the parents or tutorials of the target group children

What was to be done ?

- The National Center for Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases and The National Center for Information and Prevention of Cervix Cancer organized an information campaign between May – December 2009 using a “green line” phone and an electronic site

Objective

- identification of knowledge, attitude and behavior which led to the acceptance or rejection of the 2 types of HPV vaccine (Cervarix and Silgard)

Results:

- during the 6 months of activity a number of 3,626 calls (only 1,955 were specific and focused on cervix cancer and HPV infection) and 362 emails have been recorded
- all the questions/information were coded and analyzed:
- the main reached topics were:
 - activities developed during the campaign – 17,57%
 - vaccine and vaccination HPV – 33,79%
 - cervix cancer, HPV infection 48,69%

Activities developed during the campaign – 17,57%:

- who is organizing the campaign and how it unfolds
- group of children who receive free vaccinations
- on what criteria to choose one of the two vaccines
- the cost of the complete vaccination
- the Babes- Papanicolau screening program and the cost of the test
- where can be performed and how much costs the DNA- HPV type test

Vaccine and vaccination against HPV:

- the time to develop immunity – 26%
- the efficiency of the vaccine – 22%
- the difference between the two types of vaccines and what are the companies which produce the vaccine (18%)
- trial tests for the both type of vaccines before the show launched on the market – 15%
- the countries which already introduced this vaccine and the effectiveness – 10%
- the composition of the two types of vaccines – 9%

Questions raised about vaccination:

- which is the optimal age for vaccination
- if the vaccine is recommended in case they have been diagnosed with HPV infection
- who is giving the vaccine and the injection site
- if the vaccine is mandatory and what is the advice
“TO BE OR NOT TO BE... VACCINATED”
- what are the side effects on short and long term
- contraindications for the HPV vaccination

Cervix cancer and HPV infection:

- how to develop the cervix cancer – signs and symptoms
- evolution and surviving time after the diagnosis
- HPV infection and the types of HPV involved in cancer disease
- ways of transmission of HPV and diagnosis methods
- prevention of HPV infection
- treatment of HPV infection - genital condilloma

Conclusions:

The introduction of a new vaccine in a routine vaccination scheme is more and more difficult

The population needs a strong and continuous information campaign

The information campaign should start at least 4 months before vaccination itself