

Human papilloma virus: Associated cervical cancer in southern Asia

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Background: Genital Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection is the most common infection of the sexually transmitted disease around the world, predominantly in developing countries. Persistent infection with oncogenic types of HPV is strongly associated with the development of preinvasive and invasive lesions of the ano-genital tract, including cancer of the cervix, vagina, vulva, anus and penis and its risk factors for transmission are largely unknown.

Objectives: To evaluate the burden of HPV associated Cervical Cancer in Southern Asia

Methods: Epidemiological studies on Genital Human Papilloma Virus infection have had a significant impact on its research, care and prevention in the last decades. Data were obtained through a compressive review using the MEDICINE and BIREME bibliographical database. In addition, conference reports, government publications and meeting documents were identified by government and nongovernment organization and other institutions.

Results: Women who have many sexual partners (or who have sex with men who had many other partners) have greater risk of HPV. According to the WHO, among women in 2008, annual number of new cases of cervical cancer was 529409 in worldwide, 169854 in Southern Asia (134420 in India alone) and Annual number of deaths was 274882 in Worldwide, 93815 in Southern Asia (72825 in India). About 86% of the cases occur in developing countries, representing 13% of female cancer. Cumulative risk (ages 0-74 years) of Cervical cancer in Southern Asia is 1.6% and in India 1.7%. A review of published literature showed, Age standard incidence rate of cervical cancer of Southern Asia- Nepal (32.4%), Bangladesh (29.8%), India (27.0%), Bhutan (20.4%), Pakistan (19.5%), Srilanka (11.8%).

Conclusions: Cervical cancer is highly endemic in India among Southern Asian countries and leads to much health consumption. The large population and high prevalence of cervical cancer, the burden of cervical cancer in India could become enormous.

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