U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health Epidemiology of HPV and Cervical Neoplasia

Implications for Optimal Vaccination and Screening

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TISSUE: Cervix

- Best understood site of HPV infection
- For all sites where HPV causes cancer:

HPV + Transformation Zone = Increased Risk of Carcinogenesis

Transformation Zone -- Visually **Transformation Zone –**

Histologically

EXPOSURE: HPV

≻10 8 13 9 16 11 18 * **Evolutionary** 6 15 3 2

α1, 8, 10, 13 Genital Warts

α5, 6, 7, 9, 11 Carcinoma & Precursors

> α2, 3, 4, 15 Commensal Infections

Virology 2005

Burk,

Tree

years)

(millions of

DISEASE: Cervical Precancer and Cancer



Schiffman et al., Lancet, 2007

Epidemiologists Define Critical Steps From Normal to Cancer



The First Step is HPV Infection



- Easily transmitted
- Each infection is independent
- A woman can have several, at the same or different times
- The peak incidence in a population is usually at young ages

Rapid Clearance is the Rule



Persistence is Highly Associated with Risk of CIN3



- Overt Persistence is key risk factor for precancer
- HPV type very important
- Co-factors like smoking or parity less important



Guanacaste Cohort (Rodriguez, JNCI 2007)

Kaiser Portland HPV Study (23,000 Women) Cumulative Risk of Cancer, by HPV Type



Prospective Study of Cancer Death

	Cancer	Death	
HPV	8 / 24,000	0	
neg			→ Cancer → Death
HPV	87 / 2,800	12	
pos			
			8 year follow-up in randomized trial (130,000 women)
Sankaranarayanan, NEJM, 2009			HPV arm of trial

Clinical Viewpoint: Adapting to New Knowledge of HPV

Parts of "Old" Prevention Strategy

- Pap smear
- Colposcopic impression if Pap abnormal
- Biopsy if needed
- Treatment of CIN
- Follow-up
- Cytology, colposcopy, and biopsy have been great successes. We can now do even better.

HPV Testing: Major Randomized Trials

- All published in 2007-9
 - New England Journal, Lancet, J Natl Cancer Institute
- Show screening with HPV tests is more sensitive for early detection of CIN3 than cytology
- HPV testing with or followed by cytology might be useful in some places, or other triage tests might be used
- In low-resource regions, screen-and-treat?
- New IARC Study in India by Sankaranarayanan et al. is a landmark study

Cervical Cancer Prevention Efforts Should Fit

Age Patterns in Natural History



Schiffman and Castle, NEJM, 2006

If We Can Afford to Vaccinate...



Vaccinate **before** the peak of incidence, because the vaccines are preventive, and they do not work after infection occurs

If We Screen with Limited Resources...



Screen after the peak of incidence, to improve specificity and positive predictive value

Defining a New Clinical View of Cervical Carcinogenesis

There are many tests which, alone or combined, predict similar levels of risk



"Risks" Are Simpler To Use Than Algorithms

Don't Screen Too Often with HPV

(5-year cumulative incidence of CIN2+

following first HPV detection)



Year of First Positive HPV Test

Don't Screen Too Often with HPV

(5-year cumulative incidence of CIN2+

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Year of First Positive HPV Test

N 1324

288

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203



Concluding Predictions

- Even better vaccines
- Decreased role for algorithms based on cytology, colposcopy and targeted biopsy
- More reliance on HPV-related tests and risk stratification to define management
- We need good epidemiology to inform new strategies