CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING PRACTICES IN WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV AT A LARGE HOSPITAL SITE

Authors:
Griffiths PM[1], Samra R[1,2], Rawson-Harris P[1], Hoy JF[1], McMahon JH[1,2]

[1]Department of Infectious Diseases, Alfred Hospital and Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, [2]Department of Infectious Diseases, Monash Health, Melbourne, Australia

Background:
Women living with HIV (WLHV) have an increased prevalence of cervical cancer and are recommended to have more frequent screening than women without HIV. We aimed to describe the number of WLHV who followed cervical cancer screening guidelines at a large tertiary hospital.

Methods:
A retrospective analysis of cervical cancer screening of all adult WLHV managed at the Alfred Hospital, a large tertiary hospital providing HIV care but doesn't have cervical cancer screening on site with patients referred to primary health care for screening. Self-collected cervical screening tests were introduced in the clinic from April 2023.We included patients, who had a minimum of two clinical consultations in the prior two years with one in the last 12 months. Screening results were obtained from The National Cervical Cancer Screening Register (NCCSR).

Results:
156 WLHV were identified to 10 October 2023, of which 115 were evaluable (20 left care, 5 prior hysterectomy, 4 transgender women, 11 non-Medicare, 1 deceased). 68 (59.1%) were not identified as immunosuppressed or high risk in the NCCSR so recommended their next screen in 5 years. Only 2 (1.7%) results were from self-collected samples, 57 (49.6%) had screening per guideline recommendations and 8 (14%) had abnormalities of oncogenic HPV detection +/- low grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (LSIL) on cytology. 58 (50.4%) WLHV were overdue their cervical screening test (52 >6 months overdue, 45 >12 months). Of overdue women 47 (81.0%) had a previous normal screen, 4 (6.9%) had no prior result and 7 (12.1%) had abnormal results on their recent screen. (HSIL:n=1, LSIL/low-risk lesion:n=3, oncogenic HPV:n=3).

Conclusion:
Many WLHV are overdue cervical cancer screening. Identification for 3-yearly screening may be impacted by confidentiality around HIV diagnosis or lack of provider understanding about screening recommendations for WLHV. Self-collected samples have increased opportunities for screening for WLHV.

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