

LOW PREVALENCE OF HIGH-RISK ANAL HPV IN YOUNG GAY AND BISEXUAL MALES AFTER THE UNIVERSAL HPV VACCINATION PROGRAM IN AUSTRALIA

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Background: Australia introduced a school-based quadrivalent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination program for females in 2007. This was extended to include boys aged 12-13 from 2013, with a two-year catch-up for boys aged ≤15. This study examined HPV prevalence among young gay and bisexual males (GBM) who were age-eligible for vaccination in the school-based program.

Methods: Males aged 16-20 years were recruited from sexual health clinics and the community in Melbourne in 2017-2018, if they reported any form of male sexual contact, and were residents of Australia from 2013. A clinician-collected anal swab, self-collected penile swab and oral rinse were collected for HPV detection and genotyping. Preliminary results from 114 GBM out of 200 were analysed and full results will be available for presentation.

Results: The mean age of GBM was 18.6 years (SD 1.0). The majority (80%) were recruited from clinics and 20% from the community. The median number of lifetime male partners was 10 [IQR 5-25] for receptive oral sex, four [IQR 1-11] for receptive anal sex and one for insertive anal sex [IQR 0-6]. Overall, 64% received at least one dose of vaccine documented via the National HPV Vaccination Program Register. Prevalence of quadrivalent vaccine-preventable HPV genotypes was 4.9% (95% CI: 1.6-11%) for anal, 3.4% (95% CI: 0.7-9.5%) for penile and 0% (95% CI: 0-3.2%) for oral sites. Only two men, both unvaccinated, had high-risk vaccine-preventable HPV genotypes: one with anal HPV16 (1%); the other with penile HPV16 (1%).

Conclusion: Statistical analysis comparing before and after the male vaccination program will be performed once all laboratory results are available. The preliminary analysis shows a reduction in the prevalence of anal HPV 16/18 among young GBM following the school-based male HPV vaccination. The addition of male HPV vaccination to female programs may reduce the incidence of anal cancer among GBM.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: This study was funded by Merck & Co. (Protocol 54860) who provided funding to MSHC to conduct this Investigator Initiated Study

with EPFC and MYC as Principal Investigators. EPFC and AMC have received educational grants from Seqirus Australia and bioCSL to assist with education, training and academic purposes in the area of HPV. CKF has received honoraria from CSL Biotherapies and Merck, and research funding from CSL Biotherapies. CKF owns shares in CSL Biotherapies. SMG was an investigator on a national HPV typing study of cervical cancer that received unrestricted funding from CSL Biotherapies and on a recurrent respiratory papillomatosis typing study that received unrestricted funding from Merck. SMG has received advisory board fees and and lecture fees from Merck for work in private time. SMG has received funding through her institution (Royal Women's Hospital) to do studies of HPV vaccines for Merck & Co. and GlaxoSmithKline from CSL Biotherapies and is a member of the Merck Global Advisory Board for the HPV vaccine. DAM reports educational grants from Seqirus Australia, and honoraria (donated to her institute) from MSD. All other authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.