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| **Barriers to receiving HPV vaccination among men in a Chinese community: A qualitative study in Hong Kong** |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)****Background/Objectives**Human papillomavirus (HPV) can lead to various diseases; low-risk strains can lead to genital warts, whereas high-risk strains can cause not only cervical cancer and cancer of the vulva in women but also cancers of the penis, anus, and oropharynx in men. The incidence of anal cancer is rising in men with 900 new cases every year, and about one in 100 sexually active adults in the United States has genital warts. Although HPV affects men, literature shows that the prevalence of HPV vaccination is far lower among men than women. However, few studies have examined perceptions and acceptance of the HPV vaccine among men, particularly in Chinese communities. In this study, men’s acceptability of the HPV vaccine was investigated using Hong Kong men as a case group.**Methods**A qualitative research approach was adopted. Thirty-nine men were purposively sampled for the in-depth individual semistructured interviews from June to October 2017 to investigate their perceptions of the HPV vaccine and the barriers for them to receive the vaccination.**Results**Limited knowledge and low awareness of HPV-related topics, lack of risk awareness of HPV infection, perceived association of HPV vaccine with promiscuity, and lack of official information on HPV-related topics were identified as the key barriers for the participants. **Discussion**These themes intermingled with the sociocultural environment, cultural values of sexuality, and patriarchal gender values. HPV vaccine is socially constructed as a women’s concern of no consequence to men, and as a vaccine for promiscuity. The participants were discouraged from receiving HPV vaccination because of its signalling of socially deviant promiscuity. Cultural taboo on sex also served as a social oppression of open discussion about HPV vaccine, affected the participants’ perceived need of vaccination. Perceived insignificance of reproductive organs also influenced the participants’ perceived need of vaccination. To overcome the social and cultural constraints, health care providers are suggested to take the initiative in discussing about the vaccine with men proactively. This can enhance the awareness and perceived need to receive HPV vaccination among the men population in Chinese communities.**Keywords**HPV vaccine; men; barriers; Hong Kong; qualitative |