

Abstract

Knowledge and attitudes to HPV immunisation IV

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Introduction

HPV infection is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases causing, apart from genital warts, other malignancies, most often cervical cancer. The most effective way of prevention is vaccination. So far, there have been 3 types of vaccines, most recent one being the nonavalent vaccine providing up to 90 % protection against cervical cancer-causing HPV, in contrast to the previously available 70 % protection from bivalent or quadrivalent vaccines.

Aims

The main aim of this thesis was to investigate the knowledge and attitudes towards vaccination against HPV, and knowledge about HPV in general, among secondary school students. Furthermore, to determine their vaccination status and compare the findings with data from previous theses, including a comparison of their knowledge about HPV and relevant prevention.

Methodology

The data was obtained by means of a questionnaire survey, which took place at three secondary schools. In December 2017 at Gymnázium in Mladá Boleslav, then during June 2018 at Gymnázium in Brandýs nad Labem, and finally in September 2018 at Gymnázium Chotěboř.

The obtained data was recorded in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and then statistically processed using SPSS for Windows. Statistical evaluation was performed using t-test and Pearson chi-square.

Results

The questionnaire survey included a total of 317 respondents, ranging from 15 to 19 years with an average age of 16,6 years. The majority were women (54,3 %), non-smokers (93,7 %) and non-believers (80,8 %). Most respondents (96,8 %) have heard about the

cervical or penis cancer, but only 42,9 % knew about the existence of an HPV vaccination. The total number of vaccinated students was fairly low – about 39 % of them were vaccinated. Nevertheless, further 28,3 % did not know their vaccination status. Vaccination coverage among girls was 65,7 %, among boys it was only 7 %. The most often cited reasons for not being vaccinated were: the fear of side effects, missing recommendation, doubts about the usefulness of the vaccination and distrust in vaccination. The knowledge was somewhat lower among students from two Gymnázium-type of schools in the Středočeský region and Gymnázium in Vysočina region (on average they scored 6,2 points \pm 2,2), than the respondent sample surveyed in the thesis by Andrea Říhová from the Ústecký region (6,5 \pm 2,2).

Conclusions

Based on the results, there are significant differences in the knowledge and awareness between men and women, those vaccinated and those unvaccinated, whereas more knowledgeable appear to be women and vaccinated students. As shown in results from previous thesis, the level of knowledge and awareness about vaccination and HPV correlates, to some extent, with vaccination status.

Key words: human papillomavirus, cervical cancer, vaccination