

ABSTRACT

ATTITUDES AND KNOWLEDGE OF HPV INFECTION AND VACCINATION

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INTRODUCTION

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a DNA virus. The virus causes benign and malignant diseases of men and women such as laryngeal papillomatosis, genital warts, oropharyngeal carcinoma, cervical cancer, penile cancer and anus cancer. HPV can be prevented by appropriate precautionary measures. The main preventative method is vaccination against HPV. Besides vaccination, regular screening is necessary to detect premalignant changes on time.

AIMS

The aim of the theoretical part of the diploma thesis was to summarize the information about HPV, the diseases caused by human papillomavirus and vaccination against HPV, the main preventive measure. The primary aim of the practical part was to find out the level of HPV awareness among girls and boys and diseases caused by HPV. The secondary aim of the practical part was to find out opinions on HPV vaccination and determine the rate of vaccination against HPV among young people in Slovakia.

METHODS

The method of quantitative research taken in the form of a questionnaire was used in the diploma thesis. The survey was realized at two secondary schools in Svidník, Slovakia. The age range of respondents was 15-20 years. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics. The difference in attitudes and opinions of respondents was tested by t-test.

RESULTS

The total number of respondents was 217. Up to 90 % of them reported knowledge of cervical cancer/ penile cancer. More than a half of the respondents (56 %) correctly reported that cervical cancer is caused by HPV. However, only 23,5 % of them were aware of HPV vaccination. The rate of vaccination among the respondents was very low, only 2,3 %. All vaccinated respondents mentioned that their parents decided to vaccinate them.

CONCLUSION

The study has shown that the rate of vaccination against human papillomavirus is very low in Slovakia. Lack of information concerning vaccination against HPV from doctors impacts the issue. Women are better informed about the issue than men.

Keywords: *human papillomavirus, vaccination, prevention, cervical cancer, informedness, knowledge, attitudes*