SURVEY OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS HPV VACCINATION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

Takács K[1], Karácsony I[1], Betlehem J[2], Boncz I[3], Vajda R[3], Pakai A[2]

1. Institute of Basic Health Sciences, Midwifery and Health Visiting, University of Pécs, Szombathely, Hungary
2. Institute of Emergency Care, Pedagogy of Health and Nursing Sciences, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary
3. Institute for Health Insurance, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary

OBJECTIVES

The primary cause of cervical cancer is HPV, which may also be responsible for the development of several anogenital tumors (rectum, vagina, penis, vulva, cervix) as well as head and neck tumors. The aim of our research is to explore the knowledge and attitudes of young people aged 12-20 regarding HPV infection and vaccination.

METHODS

Our cross-sectional, quantitative, descriptive study was conducted in September and October 2024 using an online questionnaire and paper-based data collection at the Berzsenyi Dániel Gymnasium in Celldömölk. The sample of 12-20-year-olds (n=111) was selected using convenience sampling. The main topics were: socio-demographic data, their knowledge of HPV, cervical cancer, and vaccination, their sources of information, their opinions on vaccination, and attitude scales related to cervical cancer and vaccination. The data were processed using Microsoft Excel 2016, in which we applied descriptive statistical methods. We used a two-sample t-test and a $\chi 2$ test ($p<0.05$) to test the hypotheses.

RESULTS

The average age of the participants was 17.14 years. Boys had a lower level of knowledge about HPV and vaccination ($p=0.03$). The educational attainment of mothers ($p=0.58$) and fathers ($p=0.92$) showed no significant correlation with their children's vaccination status. There was no significant correlation between the family history of HPV infection and the vaccination status of young people ($p=0.78$). There was a significant difference between the attitudes of males and females ($p<0.05$), while there was no difference based on place of residence ($p>0.05$). Differences between schools proved to be significant ($p<0.05$). Students in elementary and middle school had more unfavorable attitudes.

CONCLUSIONS

Knowledge about HPV infection, cervical cancer, and vaccination is generally low, especially among boys. It is particularly important that young people expand their knowledge through up-to-date, easily accessible educational materials, thereby promoting increased willingness to be vaccinated.

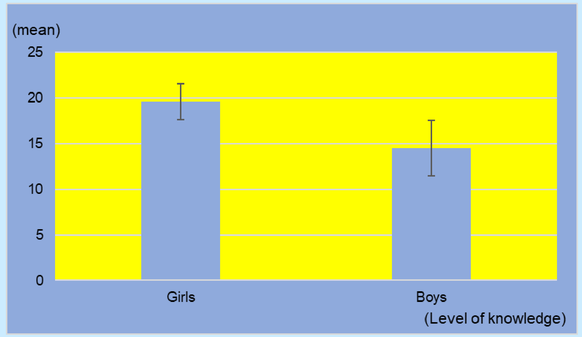

Figure 1.
Knowledge test results (N = 111)

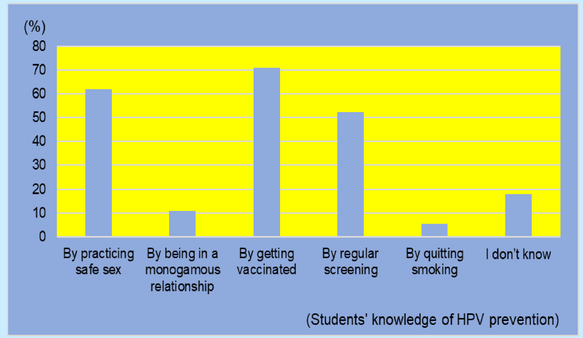

Figure 2.
Students' knowledge about the prevention of HPV infection (N=111)

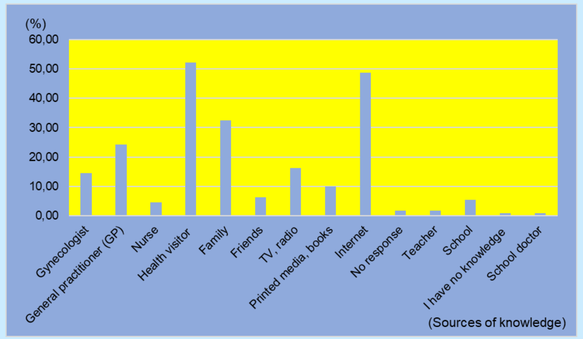

Figure 3.
Students' sources of information (N=111)

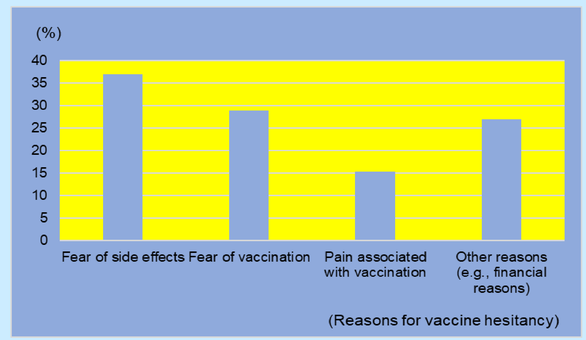

Figure 4.
Reasons for vaccine hesitancy among students (N=111)

Variables	Outcome / Relationship	p-value
Gender (boys vs girls)	Knowledge level	**0.03**
Mother's education	Vaccination status	0.58
Father's education	Vaccination status	0.92
Family history of HPV	Vaccination status	0.78
Gender	Attitude toward vaccination	>0.05
Place of residence	Attitude	>0.05
Type of school	Attitude	**<0.05**
Source of information (healthcare vs others)	Knowledge/behavior	0.55

Table 1.
Associations between selected variables and HPV-related outcomes (N=111)

ISPOR 2026
May 17-20, 2026 | Philadelphia, PA | USA

University of Pécs
1367

Funding:

The research was financed by the Thematic Excellence Program 2021 Health Sub-programme of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology in Hungary, within the framework of the EGA-10 project of the University of Pécs.

Corresponding author:

Dr. Annamária PAKAI, MSc, PhD, Habil
University of Pécs, Institutue of Emergency Care, Pedagogy of Health and Nursing Sciences
E-mail: annamaria.pakai@etk.pte.hu

PCR 33

SZÉCHENYI 2020
HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT
European Union
European Social Fund
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE