

Knowledge of Human Papillomavirus Among Women Aged between 25-65 years in Hungary

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OBJECTIVES

The level of knowledge about gynecological cancer varies considerably in Hungary. The main objective of our study was to assess the knowledge of women about human papillomavirus and also learn their attitudes about the vaccine.

METHODS

A quantitative cross-sectional, questionnaire survey was carried out by using non-random sample selection method among the women aged between 25-65 years, in 2021, Hungary (n=248). The questionnaire included the following groups of questions: socio-demographic profile, knowledge on human papilloma virus and willingness to vaccination. χ^2 -test and independent sample t-test was performed as a statistical method besides 95% probability (p<0.05). The data analysis was performed with SPSS 27.0 program.

RESULTS

The respondent women's average age was 41.29±12.42SD years. 92.7% of the women knew the meaning of the acronym, HPV. Significantly more women with higher education ($\chi^2=21.147$; p<0.001) knew the promoting factors of the infection. 77.5% of the women knew that the infection affected both women and men. Women with higher education significantly knew more on HPV ($\chi^2=39.01$; p=0.003). 41.0% of respondent women reported annual visit for screening. Significantly more women with primary education ($\chi^2=25.37$ p=0.004) stayed away from screening due to the cost than those with higher education. 82.4 % of respondents had heard about the vaccination against HPV 10.9% of them received vaccination. 47.6% of them may have vaccination later, especially those who is younger (p<0.001) or those who attend cervical screening regularly ($\chi^2=15.147$; p=0.019). The main reason for refusing vaccination is fear (50.3%). The respondents named the gynecologist (70.2%) as the most reliable source of information.

CONCLUSIONS

To enhance knowledge is the best way to express the importance of HPV infection and cervical cancer. Acquired knowledge may determine the participation in screening and willingness to vaccination.

Variable	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Standard deviation
Age (yrs)	41.29	25	65	12.42
Question	Variable	Cases (n)	Percentage (%)	
Marital status	Married	181	72.9%	
	Single/divorced/widow(er)	67	27.1%	
Number of children	One	38	15.3%	
	Two or more	119	47.9%	
Education	Primary	5	2.0%	
	Comparative	82	33.1%	
	Higher	161	64.9%	
Financial position	Below average	19	7.7%	
	Average/above average	229	92.3%	

Table 1.
Background Characteristics of the Study Sample (n=248)

	Variable	Odds ratio, p-value
Financial position	Persons with below average income (ref.)	OR=5.861; 95%CI[2.679;12.826]; p<0.001
	Persons with average /above average income	
	Variable	p-value (χ^2 -test)
Level of education	Higher education (64.9%)	p<0.001
	Comparative (33.1%)	
	Primary education (2%)	
Marital status	Married (72.9%)	p<0.001
	Single/divorced/widow(er) (27.1%)	

Table 3.
Knowledge of the acronym 'HPV' (n=248)

Question	yes (n) (%)	no (n) (%)
She has been immunized with HPV vaccine	27 (10.9%)	221 (89.1%)
She would be immunized with HPV vaccine	106 (47.6%)	115 (52.4%)

Table 2.
Sample of willingness to immunization with HPV vaccine (n=248)

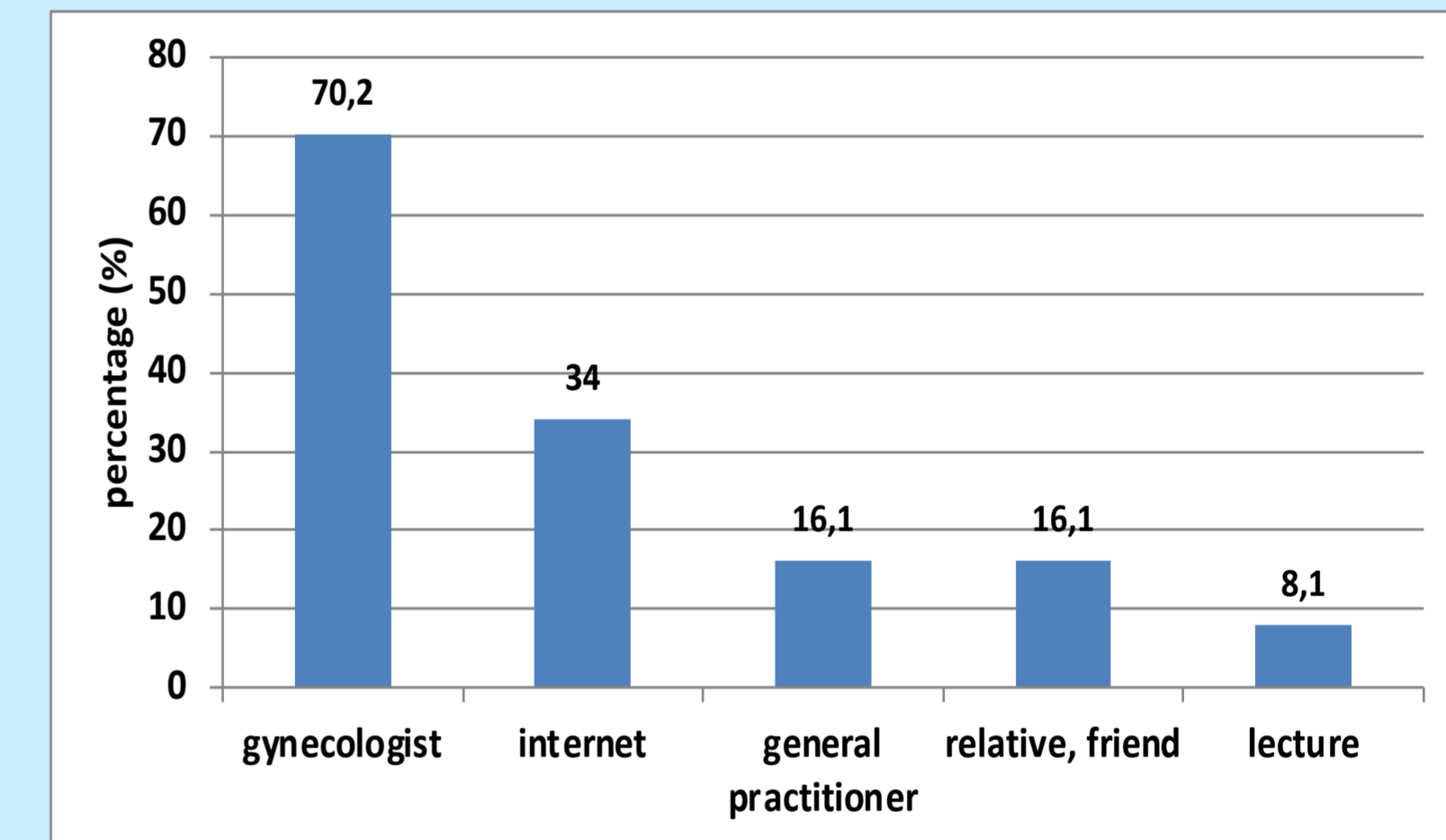


Figure 1.
Knowledge sources on cervical cancer prevention among the interviewed women (n=248)

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