



A study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding vaccine against human papilloma virus infection among adolescent girls (14-16 years) in selected schools of Gujarat state with a view to develop an information booklet

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Abstract

Adolescence is a period of transition to adult life. It is a unique phase of life during which a child goes through tremendous physical, emotional and social changes and sexual maturation occurs. The present-day adolescent is considered to be more knowledgeable about world affairs. One fifth of the world's population is represented by them. In today's scenario both the parents are employed to fulfil the increasing demands to maintain the socio-economic status in society, the adolescents hardly receive the guidance of the elders which they need now more than at any other stage in their life. Unfortunately, schools and colleges do not impart a proper education about growing self to these adolescents. Hence, they depend mainly on their peers, magazines, internet and other networking sites for gaining knowledge about their biological changes and social values. With little or inaccurate knowledge, these young people engage in sexual activities, rendering themselves vulnerable to venereal diseases. (A. Parthasarathy, M.K.S Nair, 2006) HPV's are small (55nm), DNA containing viruses, cause a variety of proliferative cutaneous and mucosal lesions, including common skin warts, benign and malignant genital tract lesions, and life-threatening respiratory papillomata. HPV is a sexually transmitted virus, sometimes symptomatic, nature and infecting most mammalian and many non-mammalian animal species. Strains are almost always species specific. Most HPV-related infections in children and adolescents are benign. (A. Parthasarathy, M.K.S Nair, 2006)

Objectives: 1. To assess the existing knowledge of adolescent girls regarding vaccine against Human Papilloma Virus infection.
2. To assess the attitude of adolescent girls regarding vaccine against Human Papilloma Virus infection.
3. To find out association between the level of knowledge and selected demographic variables of adolescent girls about vaccine against Human Papilloma Virus infection.
4. To improve the knowledge of adolescent girls regarding vaccine against Human Papilloma Virus infection by developing information booklet.

Keywords: assess, knowledge, attitude, vaccine, human papilloma virus infection, adolescent girls, schools, state, information booklet

Introduction

HPV infections are restricted to the intraepithelial layer of the mucosa and do not induce a vigorous immune response. Approximately half of all women infected with HPV develop detectable serum antibodies, but these antibodies do not necessarily protect against subsequent infection by the same HPV type. The best characterized and most type specific HPV antibodies are those directed against the L1 protein of the virus. A Pap smear every two years can prevent the most common form of cervical cancer in up to 90% of cases and is the best protection against cervical cancer. DNA testing for HPV infection is becoming more widely used to assist with identification of high-risk categories. The clinical diagnostic tests available to diagnose cervical cancer are colposcopy with biopsy, cystoscopy, proctoscopy; imaging studies include magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), chest X-ray and computed tomography scans etc. Cancer can be treated by surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy, and sometimes aims at relieving the symptoms. This is called palliative treatment. Surgical treatments like cryosurgery, laser surgery, hysterectomy, trachelectomy and pelvic lymph node dissection. Two types of radiation therapy used to treat cervical cancer are external beam radiation therapy

and brachytherapy. The most commonly using chemotherapeutic drugs are cisplatin, topotecan, isocyanide and 5- fluorouracil. Sometimes chemotherapy and radiation therapy are used together.

The visible type of external warts can be treated by using podofilox 0.5percent solution, Imiquimod 5percent cream and the cryotherapy with liquid nitrogen.

HPV is the etiologic agent of virtually all cases of cervical cancer worldwide and is responsible for high proportion of pre invasive cervical cancer as well as genital warts and other non-genital cancers.

Material and Methods

In this study Non experimental Descriptive Survey design is used. For selecting the sample for the present study, non-probability quota sampling technique is used. A total of 200 adolescent girls of the age group between 14-16 years studying in 9th and 10th standard were selected according to fulfilled the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the present study from the selected schools of Gujarat state. A total of 100 adolescent girls of 9th standard and 100 adolescent girls from 10th standard, A structured

questionnaire was prepared to assess the knowledge of school teachers regarding HPV infections and its vaccination. The tool was developed. The tool contains 3 parts namely socio-demographic profile, knowledge questionnaire and attitude questions.

Results

The major findings of the study include

1. With regard to demographic variables majority of the adolescent girls (4-16 yrs.) were belongs to Hindu religion and were living in nuclear family, most of the parents were doing job and had family income between 2,00,000 to 3,00,000 per year and most of them were two girl child in the family.
2. As regard to knowledge level among the 200 adolescents only 8(4%) had excellent knowledge, 78(39%) had good knowledge and majority 114(57%) of them had poor knowledge regarding vaccine against Human Papilloma Virus infection.
3. With regard to attitude among the 200 adolescents only 14(7%) had favourable attitude, 84(42%) had moderately favourable attitude and majority 102(51%) of them had unfavourable attitude regarding vaccine against Human Papilloma Virus infection.
4. With regard to association between knowledge with their selected socio-demographic variables such as age, education, religion, types of family, occupation of parents, family income, total number of girl child in the family and sources of information, two were significant that are occupation of parents and sources of information remaining all were non-significant.

Conclusion

The main conclusion from the study is that there is poor knowledge and unfavorable attitude of adolescent girls (14-16 yrs.) regarding vaccine against Human papilloma Virus infection.

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