HPV Vaccination for sex workers: finding a balance between pros and cons

Dr. M. F. Schim van der Loeff

Public Health Service Amsterdam & Amsterdam UMC

15 November 2019
Conflicts of Interest

- My institution received research funding from Sanofi Pasteur MSD, Merck, Janssen Infectious Diseases and Vaccines
- My institution received in-kind contribution for an HPV study from Stichting Pathologie Onderzoek en Ontwikkeling (SPOO)
- I was a co-investigator in a Merck-funded investigator-initiated study
- I was an investigator on a Sanofi Pasteur MSD sponsored trial
- I served on a vaccine advisory board of GSK
- I was a member of the HPV Committee of the Dutch Health Council
HPV Prevalence among FSW in A'dam

Marra; Jol 2018
HPV Vaccination intention of FSW

![Diagram showing the relationship between out-of-pocket payment and HPV vaccination intention score.](Marra; STD 2017)
Should female sex workers be offered HPV vaccination?

Maarten F. Schim van der Loeff, Alex Vorsters, Elske Marra, Pierre Van Damme, and Arjan Hogewoning
Reasons to Offer
HPV Vaccination to SW

1. SWs are at high risk for HPV
2. SWs unlikely to have been offered vaccination in the past
3. Immunogenicity of vaccines is excellent in all women (even if previously exposed)
4. Women with HPV disease may still benefit from vacc.
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2. SWs unlikely to have been offered vaccination in the past
3. Immunogenicity of vaccines is excellent in all women (even if previously exposed)
4. Women with HPV disease may still benefit from vacc.
5. RCTs showed efficacy of vaccinating mid-adult women
6. SWs may not have been exposed to all HPV types
7. Vaccinating SW may reduce HPV transmission
Reasons Not to Offer HPV Vaccination to SW

1. Current vaccines are prophylactic, not therapeutic
2. Women who have cleared an HPV infection do not need a vaccine
3. How to establish a woman’s HPV status? [more women may have been / are infected than DNA/Ab shows]
4. Cleared HPV or HPV gone into latency?
Reasons Not to Offer
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4. Cleared HPV or HPV gone into latency?
5. Vaccinating after sexual debut may be too late to offer protection against CIN2+ or AIN2+
Effectiveness of catch-up human papillomavirus vaccination on incident cervical neoplasia in a US health-care setting: a population-based case-control study

Michael J Silverberg, Wendy A Leyden, Jennifer O Lom, Steven E Gregorich, Megan J Huchko, Shalini Kulasingam, Miriam Kuppermann, Karen K Smith-McCune, George F Sawaya
Two sobering studies regarding individual benefit of HPV vaccination in pre-exposed people

A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial of the Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine in Human Immunodeficiency Virus-Infected Adults Aged 27 Years or Older: AIDS Clinical Trials Group Protocol A5298

Timothy J. Wilkin,1 Huichao Chen,2 Michelle S. Cespedes,3 Jorge T. Leon-Cruz,2 Catherine Godfrey,4 Elizabeth Y. Chiao,5 Barbara Bastow,6 Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque,7 Qinghua Feng,8 Joan Dragavon,9 Robert W. Coombs,9,10 Rachel M. Presti,11 Alfred Saah,12 and Ross D. Cranston13
Two sobering studies regarding individual benefit of HPV vaccination in pre-exposed people

VACCAIN-P study in Amsterdam

- HIV-positive men with successful treatment of anal HSIL were randomised to placebo or qHPV vaccine
- Primary outcome was cumulative recurrent HGAIN at 12 mo post last vaccination
- ITT analysis:
  - qHPV recurrence in 66%
  - placebo recurrence in 58%
  - difference -8%; P=0.38

Van der Zee R et al. IANS Scientific Meeting, Amsterdam 1-3 Nov 2019
Who may consider the question?

- Public Health Service aiming to protect the health of SWs
- Public Health Service aiming to protect the health of community
- A physician offering health care to an individual SW
Other Issues

- Male sex workers?
- Cx Cancer screening!
Conclusions

- HPV vaccination should be offered to all girls prior to sexual debut

- Studies are needed to directly or indirectly establish effectiveness of vaccinating SW

- RCTs provide the best answer, but are not realistic

- Because the vaccines are safe, a harm-benefit balance is not needed, but only a cost-benefit balance
Acknowledgements

Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination, Vaccine & Infectious Disease Institute, University of Antwerpen

- Dr Alex Vorsters
- Prof dr Pierre Van Damme

GGD Amsterdam

- Dr Elske Marra
- Dr Arjan Hogewoning