



AWARENESS ABOUT HPV VACCINATION AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Background: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a leading cause of cervical cancer, and vaccination offers a preventive measure against the virus. Despite its importance, awareness of the HPV vaccination among university students remains a critical issue. This study explores the level of awareness about the HPV vaccine among Medical students, examining factors influencing knowledge, attitudes, and vaccine acceptance. **Methodology:** A cross sectional study was conducted among 128 Medical students (undergraduates, interns, postgraduates) in Konaseema Institute of Medical sciences and research foundation, Amalapuram. The study data was collected through Google forms using a pre-designed semi-structured questionnaire. **Results:** It indicates that while a majority of students were aware of HPV as a health risk, knowledge about the vaccine's availability and its preventive benefits was significantly lower. Several factors, including educational background, sources of health information, and perceived risks, were identified as influencing awareness levels. The findings highlight the need for targeted educational campaigns within university settings to increase awareness, improve attitudes toward vaccination, and ultimately reduce HPV-related health risks in this demographic. **Conclusion:** The conclusion about awareness of the HPV vaccine among Medical students generally highlights that while some students are informed about the vaccine, many lack comprehensive knowledge regarding its benefits, safety, and the importance of vaccination. Research often shows that awareness levels are influenced by factors such as educational background, social media exposure, and healthcare communication. Although some undergraduates are aware of the link between HPV and cervical cancer, fewer are familiar with the broader protective benefits against various cancers caused by the virus. Efforts to improve awareness, through targeted educational programs and campaigns, are crucial to ensure that young adults make informed decisions about HPV vaccination and understand its role in preventing HPV-related health issues.

KEYWORDS : HPV, vaccination, awareness, Medical students, cervical cancer, health education.

INTRODUCTION

The awareness of the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine among Medical students is an important public health topic, as young adults are at an age when vaccination can significantly reduce the risk of HPV-related cancers, including cervical, anal, and throat cancers. Despite the availability of the vaccine and its proven effectiveness, research indicates that many university students have limited or incomplete knowledge about the vaccine's benefits, safety, and the role it plays in preventing HPV transmission. Factors such as educational background, cultural influences, healthcare access, and the portrayal of vaccines in media can all contribute to the varying levels of awareness. Understanding the current state of awareness among Medical students is crucial for designing targeted health communication campaigns and interventions that encourage informed decisions and increase vaccine uptake within this demographic.

METHODOLOGY

Study Design: Cross - sectional study

Study Population: All medical students (undregadutes, interns, postgraduates)

Study Period: November 2024 - march 2025

Sample Techniques: Convenient sampling

Inclusion Criteria : All medical students (undregadutes, interns, postgraduates)

Exclusion Criteria: Consultants in medicine and non medical students.

Ethical Consideration: Informed consent was taken

Data Collection: Data collection was done using pre tested and pre structured questionnaire. Google forms were sent to all women and asked to be filled.

Data Analysis And Interpretation:

Data was entered using Microsoft Excel 2016 spreadsheet. Summarization and analysis of data were carried out by using IBM SPSS Software version 21(licensed). Descriptive Statistics: Frequency, percentage. Inferential Statistics: Chi - square test.

RESULTS

The questionnaire was administered to all medical students (undregadutes, interns, postgraduates) . Questionnaire consists of 11 questions covering all possible fields to obtain the maximum benefit from the study

Table 1: A total of 128 subjects were taken as a sample size out of which 15-18 yrs constitute 7% , 19-21 yrs constitute 15.6% , 22-25 yrs constitute 62.5% and 25-27 yrs constitute 14.8%.

	Frequency	Percent
15-18yrs	9	7.0
19-21yrs	20	15.6
22-25yrs	80	62.5
25-27yrs	19	14.8
Total	128	100.0

Table 2: A total of 128 subjects were taken out of which males constitute 25.8% and females constitute 74.2%

	Frequency	Percent
Male	33	25.8
Female	95	74.2
Total	128	100.0

Table 3: A total of 128 subjects were taken out of which 1st yr students constitute 3.9% , 2nd yr students constitute 2.3% , 3rd yr students constitute 11.7% and 4th yr or above students constitute 82%

	Frequency	Percent
1st yr	5	3.9
2nd yr	3	2.3
3rd yr	15	11.7
4th yr or above	105	82.0
Total	128	100.0

Table 4: A total of 128 subjects were taken out of which 84.4% were aware about HPV whereas 15.6% were not aware about HPV before this survey.

	Frequency	Percent
yes	108	84.4
No	20	15.6
Total	128	100.0

Table 5: A total of 128 subjects were taken out of which 82% were aware that it is a sexually transmitted infection whereas 9.4% doesn't know.

	Frequency	Percent
A Sexually transmitted infection	105	82.0
A type of cancer	5	3.9
Bacterial infection	6	4.7
I dont know	12	9.4
Total	128	100.0

Table 6: A total of 128 subjects were taken out of which 86.7% were aware of mode of transmission of HPV whereas 4.7% doesn't know.

	Frequency	Percent
Kissing	9	7.0
Sexual contact	111	86.7
Sharing food or drinks	2	1.6
I dont know	6	4.7
Total	128	100.0

Table 7: A total of 128 subjects were taken out of which 91.4% were aware of existence of HPV vaccine whereas 8.6% doesn't know.

	Frequency	Percent
yes	117	91.4
No	11	8.6
Total	128	100.0

Table 8: A total of 128 subjects were taken out of which 85.9% were aware about effectiveness of HPV vaccine whereas 5.5%

were not aware and 8.6% were not sure about effectiveness of HPV vaccine.

	Frequency	Percent
yes	110	85.9
No	7	5.5
Not sure	11	8.6
Total	128	100.0

Table 9: A total of 128 subjects were taken out of which 39.1% have Doctors recommendation, 50% have awareness campaigns, 3.9% have free or affordable vaccination and 7% have no factor to get the HPV vaccine.

	Frequency	Percent
Doctors recommendation	50	39.1
Awareness campaigns	64	50.0
Free or affordable vaccinations	5	3.9
None of the above	9	7.0
Total	128	100.0

Table 10: A total of 128 subjects were taken out of which 82.8% have received the vaccination and whereas 17.2% were not vaccinated.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	106	82.8
No	22	17.2
Total	128	100.0

Table 11: A total of 128 subjects were taken out of which 73.4% have lack of awareness, 10.9% have cost of vaccine, 3.9% have fear of side effects and 11.7% have no factor as the reason for not being vaccinated.

	Frequency	Percent
Lack of awareness	94	73.4
cost of vaccine	14	10.9
Fear of side effects	5	3.9
None of the above	15	11.7
Total	128	100.0

Table 12: A total of 128 subjects were taken out of which 89.8% thinks that Institutions should provide more education about HPV and its vaccine whereas 10.2% doesn't think so.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	115	89.8
No	13	10.2
Total	128	100.0

Showing association between age of the responders and awareness of HPV before this survey.

		Have you ever heard of HPV before this survey? 1.Yes 2.No	
		yes Count	No Count
Age- 15-18yrs 19-21yrs 22-25yrs 25-27yrs	15-18yrs	5	4
	19-21yrs	12	8
	22-25yrs	74	4
	25-27yrs	17	2
Pearson Chi-Square Tests			
		Have you ever heard of HPV before this survey? 1.Yes 2.No	
Age- 15-18yrs 19-21yrs 22-25yrs 25-27yrs	Chi-square	19.064	
	df	3	
	Sig.	.000 ^{**}	

The Chi-square statistic is significant at 0.05 level.

Showing association between factors encouraging to get the HPV vaccine and vaccination status of the responders.

What factors would encourage you to get the HPV vaccine?		Have you received the HPV vaccine?	
		1.Yes	2.No
		Yes Count	No Count
What factors would encourage you to get the HPV vaccine?	Doctors recommendation	47	3
	Awareness campaigns	55	3
	Free or affordable vaccinations	2	3
	None of the above	2	3
Pearson Chi-Square Tests			
		Have you received the HPV vaccine?	
		1.Yes	2.No
What factors would encourage you to get the HPV vaccine?	Chi-square	34.488	
	df	3	
	Sig.	.000 ^a	

The Chi-square statistic is significant at 0.05 level.

Showing association between reason for not being vaccinated and institutional role in educating about HPV and its vaccine.

If you haven't been vaccinated what are the reasons?		Do you think institutions should provide more education about HPV and its vaccine?	
		Yes	No
		Count	Count
If you haven't been vaccinated what are the reasons?	Lack of awareness	88	4
	cost of vaccine	11	3
	Fear of side effects	2	3
	None of the above	14	3
Pearson Chi-Square Tests			
		Do you think institutions should provide more education about HPV and its vaccine?	
		1.Yes	2.No
If you haven't been vaccinated what are the reasons?	Chi-square	17.230	
	df	3	
	Sig.	.001 ^a	

The Chi-square statistic is significant at 0.05 level.

DISCUSSION

In present study, table 4 showing majority of medical students are aware of HPV i.e., 84.4%. Out of 128 responders 82.8% have received the HPV vaccine.

A study conducted by Nidhi Jain showed that out of total responders 79.2% were aware of HPV and its vaccine. In my current study also showed the similar result i.e., out of 128 responders 84.4% were aware of HPV and its vaccine.

A study conducted by Yanru Zhang showed that out of total responders 30% of the responders are vaccinated. In my current study also showed that out of 128 responders 82.8% were vaccinated.

A study conducted by Richard Gwamai showed that out of total responders 63% have awareness of the effectiveness of HPV vaccine against HPV. In my current study also showed the similar results i.e., out of 128 responders 85.9% are aware of effectiveness of HPV vaccine against HPV.

A study conducted by Ying Zin showed that out of total responders 76.8% were aware of mode of transmission of HPV. In my current study also showed the similar results i.e., out of 128 responders 86.7% were aware of mode of transmission of HPV.

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