“An analysis of key stakeholders’ attitudes and beliefs about barriers and facilitating factors in the development of a cervical cancer prevention program in South Africa”

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Abstract

Background: Cervical cancer is the second most common type of cancer among women worldwide. One in 15 South African women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer. The introduction and availability of the HPV vaccine requires that prevention programs and educational materials address what HPV and cervical cancer is, how to prevent it, screening recommendations, and target multiple sectors of the community.

Methods: This is a qualitative descriptive study. The sample was 9 key stakeholders in South Africa. Participants were recruited through snowball sampling. Interviews were conducted in English, digitally recorded for accuracy, and took between 45 to 90 minutes. Participants were provided $20 US for their time.

Results: Among all nine participants, costs, including vaccine administration, are the barrier for vaccine uptake. The following are key finds:

1. Cost
2. Fear/Inertia
3. Lack of vaccine confidence
4. Access to vaccine
5. Inadequate vaccine education

Implications: The findings have implications for vaccine implementation and uptake.

Study Purpose

This study sought to examine key stakeholders’ beliefs and knowledge about HPV, the HPV vaccine, and cervical cancer prevention, examine their experiences with the current cervical cancer screening and treatment policy, and identify barriers and facilitating factors to vaccine implementation and uptake.

Methods

Up to 15 key stakeholders were identified by word of mouth and were invited to participate in a series of interviews. Participants provided written, informed consent. Interviews were conducted in English, digitally recorded for accuracy, and took between 45 to 90 minutes. Participants were provided $20 US for their time.

Participants were asked to identify factors that would facilitate vaccine uptake and the strategies that would facilitate vaccine uptake.

Results

Study Results – Johannesburg

Study Results – Cape Town

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Area</th>
<th>Study Results – Johannesburg</th>
<th>Study Results – Cape Town</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPV and cervical cancer knowledge</td>
<td>Participants were asked to describe what they knew about HPV, cervical cancer and the relationship between HPV and cervical cancer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaccine awareness/administration costs</td>
<td>Participants were asked if a health facility charged for the vaccine and if boys and girls should receive it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential barriers to vaccine uptake</td>
<td>Participants were asked to identify potential barriers to vaccine uptake.</td>
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<td>Financial incentives</td>
<td>Participants were asked if they thought that vaccine uptake would increase if the government provided financial incentives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaccine administration</td>
<td>Participants were asked how they thought the vaccine should be administered.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer leaders</td>
<td>Participants were asked if they would volunteer to help promote vaccine uptake.</td>
<td>Participants were asked if they would volunteer to help promote vaccine uptake.</td>
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Implications

1. Cost
2. Fear/Inertia
3. Lack of vaccine confidence
4. Access to vaccine
5. Inadequate vaccine education

Limitations and Strengths

- The study was based on a small sample size.
- The study was conducted in Johannesburg and Cape Town.
- The study was qualitative in nature.
- The study was conducted in English.

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