



SYMPOSIUM

KEY ISSUES IN HPV PREVENTION AND EARLY DIAGNOSIS

London, 21 April 2015

BRIEFING

Background

HPV is a sexually transmitted virus and is so common that most sexually active adults become infected at some point in their lives. Most infections are asymptomatic and resolve without medical intervention. But HPV is the cause of nearly all cervical cancer cases and also causes cancer of the vagina, vulva, anus, penis and the head and neck. It is estimated to be the causal agent in 5% of all human cancers and is heavily implicated in the recent rapid rise in anal and head and neck cancers. HPV is also the cause of genital warts, the commonest sexually transmitted viral disease.

Vaccination can protect against infection by the most common HPV types and afford protection against cancer and genital warts. The UK now has a comprehensive HPV vaccination programme for 12/13 year old girls. There is also a cervical cancer screening programme that tests for pre-cancerous cells and enables early and effective treatment.

There may now be further steps that can be taken to improve the prevention of HPV infection and the early diagnosis of HPV-related disease. The purpose of this symposium is to identify, better understand and make recommendations about areas where action could be taken.

The symposium is aimed at clinicians, epidemiologists, scientists, public health specialists, patient organisations and others with a special interest in HPV and who are opinion-leaders in this field. It is envisaged that around 45 people will attend, a number that will enable effective interaction between all the participants.

Key issues

The following issues will be covered by the event:

- Tackling gaps and inequalities in girls' participation in the current UK HPV vaccination programme
- HPV vaccination for men who have sex with men (MSM)
- The inclusion of all boys in the UK HPV vaccination programme
- Improving public awareness of HPV-related disease to improve prevention and early diagnosis
- Screening for high-grade anal dysplasia, especially in high-risk population groups

The agenda and confirmed speakers are shown in Appendix 1.

Target audience

The symposium is aimed primarily at a range of healthcare professionals with a particular interest in HPV prevention and early diagnosis and who are opinion-leaders in this field. These will include:

- School nurses
- Sexual health nurses and physicians
- Academic researchers
- Epidemiologists
- Men's health organisations, including gay men's health organisations
- Women's health organisations
- Public health specialists
- Cancer charities and cancer patient organisations
- GPs, dentists, oncologists and other clinicians with a special interest in HPV-related cancers
- Health policymakers (Department of Health, NHS England, Public Health England and local government)

The audience will be specifically invited and will attend at no charge.

Event format

The event will comprise five presentations, each followed by Q&As and discussion. There will also be a debate about whether boys should be vaccinated and interactive sessions during which participants will identify key challenges in this field and next steps in research, policy and practice.

The symposium will run from 09.30 to 16.50. There will be ample breaks for participants to network and to enjoy a healthy lunch.

Outcomes

The symposium will deliver the following main outcomes:

- Informing/stimulating discussion among a wide range of very relevant and influential people and organisations about key issues in HPV prevention/early diagnosis
- Identifying recommendations for action in research, policy and practice
- Published proceedings in the form of a freestanding report
- A report on the event in a relevant health journal (a partnership arrangement is being sought with an appropriate publication)

Venue

The symposium will be held at the Royal Society for Public Health, 28 Portland Place, London W1B 1LY on Tuesday 21 April 2015.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship is being sought from up to three principal sponsors. Sanofi Pasteur MSD and the HPV and Anal Cancer Foundation have already confirmed that they will be sponsoring the event.

Sponsors will benefit from:

- Association with a range of significant health organisations and with an important issue of increasing salience
- Full acknowledgement of their support at all stages of the event, in accordance with ABPI guidelines (where appropriate)
- An opportunity to attend the event and to benefit from the knowledge and intelligence generated

There is also an opportunity for other organisations to be involved as Supporting Organisations. BASHH (British Society for Sexual Health and HIV), Brook, FPA, MEDFASH and the Terrence Higgins Trust are the first Supporting Organisations to be involved.

The European Men's Health Forum

The event is being organised by the European Men's Health Forum (www.emhf.org). EMHF was established in 2001. Originally part of the Men's Health Forum (England and Wales), it soon became an autonomous, non-profit-making, non-governmental organisation based in Brussels.

EMHF is the only European organisation dedicated to the improvement of men's health in all its aspects. Its vision is a future in which all men in Europe have an equal opportunity to attain the highest possible level of health and well-being.

Its mission is to improve men's health across all countries in Europe by promoting collaboration between interested organisations and individuals on the development and application of health-related policies, research, education and prevention programmes.

EMHF is committed to gender equality, fully supports activities to improve women's health, and opposes the re-allocation of funding from women's to men's health.

For further information

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Sponsors:



Supporting organisations:



APPENDIX 1

AGENDA (Provisional)

- 09.00 Registration and tea/coffee
- 09.30 Welcome from the Chair (Professor Ian Banks, EMHF)
- 09.40 Keynote presentation – an overview of HPV: epidemiology, prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and policy. *Confirmed speaker: Professor Margaret Stanley, Department of Pathology, University of Cambridge.*
- 10.10 The current UK HPV vaccination programme – tackling gaps and inequalities in girls' uptake. *Confirmed speaker: Professor Chris Bentley, former head of the Department of Health's Health Inequalities National Support Team.*
- 10.50 Break – tea/coffee
- 11.15 Dilemmas in vaccinating men who have sex with men (MSM). *Confirmed speaker: Dr Shaun Griffin, Executive Director of External Affairs, Terrence Higgins Trust.*
- 11.55 The potential for screening for high-grade anal dysplasia, especially in high-risk population groups. *Confirmed speaker: Professor Henry Kitchener, Chair of Gynaecological Oncology, University of Manchester and Chief Investigator ANALOGY study (looking at screening for anal cancer)*
- 12.35 Lunch
- 13.30 Challenges in improving public awareness of HPV-related disease to improve prevention and early diagnosis. *Confirmed speaker: Dr Jo Waller, Principal Research Psychologist, Cancer Research UK Health Behaviour Research Centre, University College London.*
- 14.10 Debate: Should boys be included in the UK HPV vaccination programme? *Confirmed speaker: Mr Peter Greenhouse, Consultant in Sexual Health, Bristol Royal Infirmary.*
- 15.00 Break – tea/coffee
- 15.20 Identifying next steps in research, policy and practice (small group work)
- 16.10 Small group report backs and plenary discussion
- 16.45 Chair's summation and farewell
- 16.50 Close