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Cervical cancer in Romania: The need for organized screening implementation together with public health education

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Background: cervical cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer incidence and death in women, most notably in low- and middle income countries. GLOBOCAN 2012 rates România being the first in Europe regarding incidence (28.6) for cervical cancer. Previous Romania studies have evaluated in a large cohort the HPV type and distribution in case different cytologic abnormalities (ASCUS, ASCG, LGSIL, HGSIL) and also in asymptomatic women with normal Pap.

Aims: to assess the clinical application of HPV DNA tests like a secondary screening test in our region.

Methods: Linear Array HPV Genotyping Test.

Results:

- A. Triage of women with cytological abnormalities - our data sustains HPV vaccination implementation in our area, as HPV 16 and 18 were detected in the first 5 High Risk HPV types;
- B. Combined screening: cytology and HPV testing – has increased sensitivity of detection of precancerous cervical lesions, but also increased the price of testing;
- C. Follow-up of treated women: we detected transitory, persistent infection and also reinfection with new HPV types. The most frequent HPV types detected in persistent infections were HPV 16, 18, 51 and 73.

Conclusions: only HPV/DNA testing it is not enough to increase coverage of women attending in an organized cervical cancer screening. We need health education to involve communicating up-to-date general information and messages about HPV infection, cervical cancer and options to prevent, detect and treat precancerous lesions.

Biography

Ramona Gabriela Ursu is MD (2003), Specialist in Laboratory Medicine (2008), Lecturer at Microbiology Discipline (2014). The Master degree in Epidemiology "Quantitative assessing of HR HPV and physical status" (2007). PhD in Medicine with the thesis "Asymptomatic sexually transmitted diseases. Clinical utility of high risk HPV viral load assessed by Real Time PCR"(2011). In 2014 she obtained a postdoc position with the project „HPV in special populations". The main activity is teaching Microbiology at the second and sixth year medical students, from 80 countries worldwide. Dr. Ursu has published her research results in reputed journals and she has attended in many international conferences, with oral or poster presentations. International considerations: Proficiency for participations at WHO HPV LabNet Report on HPV DNA Proficiency Panel 2010; Certificate for Cervical Cancer Prevention Course, FIGO, 2012.

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