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The Relationship between Oral Contraceptives, HPV and Squamous Cell Skin Cancer

Understanding exposures that predispose individuals to cutaneous squamous cell skin cancer (CSCC) is especially important since individuals with this cancer may be more likely to develop and die from certain secondary malignancies. In this talk, we provide a basic overview of the literature pertaining to the potential role of oral contraceptives (OC) use on cancer risk in general and then specifically address the plausibility of OC use as a risk factor for CSCC, as suggested by recent epidemiologic studies. Next, we summarize the supportive evidence linking human papillomavirus virus HPV infection with cancer and CSCC, focusing on the transmission route for HPV. In conclusion, we examine the combine effect of OC use and HPV infection on increased CSCC risk and present a conceptual model underlying the putative association. Both OC use and HPV infection are preventable exposures, and the latter is a suitable target for vaccination if implemented prior to infection.

Biography

Dr. Jimmy T. Efird completed his Ph.D. in Epidemiology at Stanford University School of Medicine. He is currently Director of Shared Resources, Center for Health Disparities Research, Brody School of Medicine. He has published more than 100 papers and servers on the editorial board of numerous journal.