Study confirms HPV vaccine more effective than previously thought

Scientists at the Health Protection Agency (HPA), the University of Manchester and the Manchester Royal Infirmary have found that the cervical cancer vaccine could prevent more cases of the disease in England than previously thought, according to a study published in the British Journal of Cancer. This could potentially reduce the annual number of cases from around 3000 to less than 700.

Cervical cancer is caused by an infection called human papillomavirus (HPV). The study found that 73-77% of cervical cancer cases were caused by either HPV type 16 or 18, both of which are prevented by the current vaccine used in the UK. Prior to this study, the available data had suggested 70% of cases were caused by these types. Current vaccines do not protect against all HPV types that cause cervical cancer, but they do protect against these two most common types.

Reference


‘The Middle-age Spread’ (STIs in the over-50s)

New interactive text messaging service for young people

As part of this service has added a text service to its helpline and online service. Young people can text Ask Brook with any question about sexual health or relationships and receive an individual response within working day. The text number is 07717 989023 and all text messages are confidential. Texts will be charged at the young person’s standard network rate. Ask Brook has 800 802 124 is available from 9.00am until 7.00pm Monday to Friday.

Source: www.askbrook.org.uk

Reviewed by Henrietta Hughes, SRCGP, DFSRH General Practitioner, London, UK

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News roundup

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http://jfprhc.bmj.com/content/36/4/248.citation

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