HPV vaccine knowledge among five ethnic communities in Utah

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ABSTRACT

To assess parents’ knowledge of the HPV vaccine among five ethnic communities in Utah, this study was conducted among Latino parents in Utah (Kepka et al., 2014). More parents with age-eligible sons who have not previously vaccinated their child with the HPV vaccine showed greater willingness to start their child on the vaccine in the coming year compared to parents with eligible daughters. Parents indicated the need for more information of the HPV vaccine to make educated decisions on whether to vaccinate their child in written comments and focus group sessions, especially pertaining to side effects. Factors influencing parents’ decision to vaccinate their child against HPV may vary by their child’s gender and ethnicity. Additional focus groups with the African immigrant and African American community are planned to study minority parents’ knowledge, perceptions, barriers, and facilitators of the HPV vaccine in Utah. Culturally-tailored and gender-focused interventions and messaging may be useful in increasing HPV vaccination uptake and completion in diverse communities in Utah.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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STUDY OBJECTIVES

To assess parents’ knowledge of the HPV vaccine among five ethnic communities in Utah

METHODS

Recruitment
• Parents/guardians of adolescents aged 11-17 years of age were eligible
• Recruitment was conducted by 5 community organizations in Salt Lake City (Community Faces of Utah) representing diverse populations
  • African immigrant (Best of Africa)
  • African American (Calvary Baptist Church)
  • Latino (Hispanic Healthcare Task Force)
  • Pacific Islander (National Tongan American Society)
  • American Indian (Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake)

Data Collection
• 4 focus groups about HPV, HPV vaccination, and cervical cancer were conducted and a 42-item survey was administered
• A Spanish-speaking Latina facilitator together with a community facilitator from the respective communities conducted the focus groups in June to August 2014; an additional 6 are to be conducted till October 2014
• Participants received a $25 gift card

Data Analysis
• Focus groups were recorded, transcribed, and translated
• STATA 12.0 used to generate demographic characteristics of the participants

BACKGROUND

• The Human Papillomavirus vaccine is recommended by the CDC for adolescents ages 11-12
• Utah has among the lowest rates of HPV vaccine initiation (44.3%) and completion (20.5%) in the US (CDC, 2013)
• HPV vaccination rates among racial and ethnic minority groups in Utah are under studied despite higher incidence of cervical cancer
• Minority parents’ knowledge and perceptions of the HPV vaccine is largely unknown

RESULTS

Table 1. Parent Demographics (N=37)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>78.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19.4</td>
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Table 2. Parents’ Knowledge of HPV Vaccine (N=37)

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<thead>
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<th>Heptice</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>67.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>32.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Mean parental age was 44.5 years (SD=9.2) with a minimum age of 31 and a maximum age of 66 years.

Discussion and Conclusions

• Slightly over half of the participants had heard about the HPV vaccine, yet less than half were aware that HPV causes cervical cancer
• Focus group interviews showed that participants demonstrated low knowledge of the HPV vaccine, which reflects results of studies conducted among Latino parents in Utah (Kepka et al., 2014)
• More parents with age-eligible sons who have not previously vaccinated their child with the HPV vaccine showed greater willingness to start their child on the vaccine in the coming year compared to parents with eligible daughters
• Parents indicated the need for more information of the HPV vaccine to make educated decisions on whether to vaccinate their child in written comments and focus group sessions, especially pertaining to side effects
• Factors influencing parents’ decision to vaccinate their child against HPV may vary by their child’s gender and ethnicity
• 6 additional focus groups with the African immigrant and African American community are planned to study minority parents’ knowledge, perceptions, barriers, and facilitators of the HPV vaccine in Utah
• Culturally-tailored and gender-focused interventions and messaging may be useful in increasing HPV vaccination uptake and completion in diverse communities in Utah

I’m concerned about side-effects. How long it’s been studied, the negative reactions that people have had to it, the connection, I guess, between HPV and cancer. That’s really interesting. I don’t get that. So I think if I understand that then that can help my decision.”

- American Indian Parent

“Because I don’t know what HPV (is) I won’t give her anything.”

- Pacific Islander parent