

PERCEPTION, KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) AND HPV VACCINATION FOR CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Background:

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is found to be a major causative factor for developing cervical cancer. Even with routine HPV vaccination programme in preventing cervical cancer, it confers less optimal benefit if educational element of the disease is not highlighted among this population. We assessed the perception, knowledge and attitude of university students towards HPV vaccination and cervical cancer prevention.

Materials & Methods:

A cross-sectional survey using a validated questionnaire by simple-randomized sampling technique in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia was conducted.

Results:

A total of 826 male and female students were included. From the total respondents, 78.6% were aware of the availability of HPV vaccine. The mean total knowledge score was 8.03 (95% CI 7.83-8.24). Majority, 66.5% of the students perceived themselves as not being at risk of HPV infection. Approximately 54.7% of respondents indicated an intention to receive HPV vaccination. Of those who declined HPV vaccination, 36.4% were worried of the side effects.

Conclusion:

The perception and knowledge on HPV infection and vaccination for cervical cancer prevention was poor. This contributed to reduce acceptability of vaccination and cancer prevention. Hence, education has a major role for this awareness.

Keywords:

Cervical cancer, human papilloma virus, vaccination

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