

**Newsletter 27: 'HPV vaccines have not been shown to be cost-effective
in countries with comprehensive Pap screening and surgery' (24th June 2013)**

My article on the HPV vaccine titled 'HPV vaccines have not been shown to be cost-effective in countries with comprehensive Pap screening and surgery' has been published in the Infectious Agents and Cancer

Journal <http://www.infectagentscancer.com/content/pdf/1750-9378-8-21.pdf>

This article provides evidence for the following facts:

- 1) HPV 16 and 18 are not a high risk for getting cervical cancer in developed countries.
- 2) HPV infections with any strain (high-risk or low-risk) do not lead to disease - cancer or warts - on their own. They are not an independent cause of cervical cancer and co-factors are required. The majority of HPV infections in developed countries will never lead to cervical cancer.
- 3) HPV infections alone are harmless, self-limiting and asymptomatic.
- 4) Developed countries have low rates of cervical cancer. E.g. Australia had a low rate of 1.9 deaths per 100,000 women before the vaccine was introduced in 2007
- 5) The co-factors necessary for cervical cancer to develop are most prevalent in developing countries. This is why 80% of cervical cancer occurs in these countries.
- 6) The benefits of HPV vaccine are only speculative against cervical cancer - and against any cancer. There is no conclusive evidence that they can prevent cancer because they have not been tested against cancer or tested against an adequate surrogate. In addition, the vaccine only covers 2 of 15+ strains of HPV that is associated with causing cervical cancer. So even if it is proven effective it cannot prevent all cervical cancer.
- 7) The harm caused by this vaccine is undetermined because of inadequate safety trial data and inadequate monitoring of adverse events after vaccination.
- 8) The HPV vaccine costs \$Au 450 per person (3 doses) and it is unsure whether it can prevent any cancer. In contrast Pap screening is almost 100% effective in preventing cervical cancer, has virtually no side-effects and costs a visit to the doctor every 2/3 years (about \$50). In Australia this cost is subsidised by the government and Pap screening will still be required by vaccinated women

9) Australia is the only country to have implemented this vaccine free in school programs for all teenage boys and girls even though it is unproven against cancer and may cause more harm than good in the population.

Please write to the Australian Health Minister, Tanya Plibersek, with this information because she has not replied to my previous correspondence. In addition, the letter I received from Australia's Chief Medical Officer did not address the concerns the public has been asking about this vaccine. This letter is published on the 'letters' page of my website'.

Judy Wilyman

PhD Candidate

www.vaccinationdecisions.net