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HPV Vaccine Discussions Between Medical Students and Standardized Patients

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Introduction

• Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the leading cause of cervical, penile, anal, and vaginal cancer. [1]
• The HPV vaccine was recently developed and is a major preventative care for cervical cancer, which affects patients assigned female at birth. [1]
• The HPV vaccine was initially marketed toward those patients assigned female more than those assigned male because of this association.
• However, the lifetime risk for acquiring HPV is higher in men (91%) than women (85%). [2]
• The CDC recommends the HPV vaccine for all patients and medical students were viewed.

Methods

• Recorded interactions between standardized patients and medical students were viewed.
• We recorded whether the patient in the standardized patient encounter was sex assigned at birth (SAAB) female or male.

Results

Vaccine Discussions and Recommendations by Sex Assigned at Birth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient SAAB</th>
<th>Total # Patients</th>
<th>Discussed Vaccines</th>
<th>Flu Vaccine</th>
<th>HPV Vaccine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>40 (48%)</td>
<td>24 (60%)</td>
<td>17 (71%)</td>
<td>16 (94%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>43 (52%)</td>
<td>27 (63%)</td>
<td>16 (59%)</td>
<td>16 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Vaccines were discussed with 61% of patients.
- Of the 51 patients with whom vaccines were discussed, the influenza vaccine was discussed with 33 patients (65%) and the HPV vaccine was discussed with 20 patients (39%).
- The influenza vaccine was recommended or suggested to 97% of patients with whom it was discussed, with the HPV vaccine being recommended or suggested 75% of the time it was discussed.
- The chart below shows the percentage of patients who had the vaccines recommended or suggested out of those patients with whom vaccines were discussed.

Examples of Language Used by Students in Vaccine Discussions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Recommendation</th>
<th>Suggestion</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“We’ll check your records”</td>
<td>“It’s your choice if you want to get a shot or not.”</td>
<td>“We always say to get the flu vaccine.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vaccine Discussions by Sex Assigned at Birth

- Students discussed vaccines with those assigned female and male at birth at nearly the same rate.
- Among students who discussed vaccines, students also discussed the flu vaccine with both male- and female- assigned patients at similar rates.
- Students were more likely to discuss the HPV vaccine with patients who were assigned female than assigned male.
- When students discussed the HPV vaccine with male-assigned patients, however, they did recommend it.
- These results suggest that students may be less likely to think about HPV vaccination when meeting with a patient who was assigned male at birth, but if they do know to discuss this vaccine, they know it is important to recommend it.
- Language used to discuss vaccines also varied, with the most effective language explaining the benefits of vaccination and making a clear recommendation.

Future Study

Topics for future study may include:
- Analysis regarding HPV vaccine recommendations and student gender
- Strategies to increase recommendation of the HPV vaccine to those assigned male at birth.

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Bibliography