Mother-Daughter-Approach a strategy to eliminate cervical cancer in Cameroon

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Introduction

Cameroon records an annual cervical cancer estimate of at least 2770 cases. Despite these huge figures, HPV vaccination and screening coverage in the country is still very poor like in most Sub Saharan African (SSA) countries which stand at less than 15%. Introducing HPV vaccine as part of the expanded program on immunization has remained timid. WHO suggests 90% vaccination coverage for girls before age 15 years and a screening coverage of 70% by 2030 as a strategy to eliminate cervical cancer? A recommended one-dose regimen for HPV vaccination currently offers great hope to improve vaccination coverage in a SSA country like Cameroon.

Method

The Mother-Daughter-Approach is a model for expanding access and uptake of cervical cancer prevention services in Cameroon ongoing since January 2022. Using this approach, women are screened for cervical cancer with HPV DNA testing as primary screening test while bringing their daughters aged 9 to 14 years for HPV vaccination. The target of this project is to vaccinate at least 1000 young girls aged 9 to 14 years and screen at least 1000 women by December 2022.

Results

A total of 1691 young girls aged 9 to 14 years have received at least one dose of the HPV vaccine, while a total of 1388 women have been screened for cervical cancer. For women screened, 827 had HPV DNA testing only, 561 VIA/VILI Digital Cervicography (DC) only and 288 had VIA/VILI and HPV. Of the 827 who had HPV DNA testing, 310 (34.8%) were positive for high risks HPV types. The overall positivity rate for cervical neoplasia of those who had VIA/VILI DC was 68/784 (8.7%) (these includes those who had VIA/VILI DC only and those who were triaged with VIA/VILI DC after testing positive for high risk HPV).

Conclusion

This project provides adequate evidence as a means to increasing overall cervical cancer prevention coverage in Cameroon and a great way to eliminate cervical cancer in Cameroon and other developing countries.