

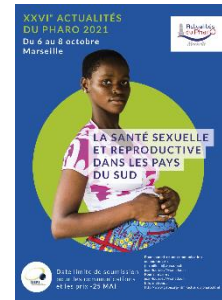
Actualités du Pharo 2021 – Session 1

Global strategy for cervical cancer elimination: opportunities and challenges for HPV vaccination

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Paul BLOEM

bloemp@who.int



Cervical cancer is a preventable disease. It is also curable if detected early and treated appropriately. Yet it remains one of the most common cancers and cancer-related deaths among women worldwide.

The annual number of new cases of cervical cancer is expected to increase from 570,000 to 700,000 between 2018 and 2030, and the annual number of deaths is expected to increase from 311,000 to 400,000. More than 85% of those affected are young, undereducated women living in the world's poorest countries. Many are also mothers of young children whose survival is then truncated by the premature death of their mothers.

Few diseases reflect global inequalities as much as cervical cancer. In low- and middle-income countries, its incidence is almost twice as high and its mortality rates three times higher than in high-income countries. Proven, cost-effective measures to eliminate cervical cancer exist, but to date they have not been widely implemented in the regions of the world with the highest disease burden. To be most effective, these measures must be adapted at the national level and implemented through health service platforms that are sensitive to women's needs, their social circumstances, and the personal, cultural, social, structural, and economic barriers that impede their access to health services.

It is essential that health services are integrated and people-centred, and that they respect and uphold the rights and dignity of women. Urgent and bold action is needed to scale up and sustain the implementation of evidence-based interventions (human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, cervical cancer screening and management of detected disease) to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem, but this action must be strategic.

This global strategy for cervical cancer elimination proposes :

- a vision of a world where cervical cancer is eliminated as a public health problem;
- a threshold of 4 per 100,000 woman-years for elimination as a public health problem;
- the following 90-70-90 targets, which must be met by 2030 for countries to be on track to eliminate cervical cancer

Trends in HPV vaccine introduction worldwide in recent years and prospects for the next decade, as well as progress and challenges in achieving high coverage will be the focus of this presentation.