

Title: Assessing Parents' Concerns with the HPV Vaccination, a Preliminary Survey

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Background/Purpose: Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection with approximately 79 million individuals currently infected in the United States. Although asymptomatic in most people, some types of HPV can have severe sequelae including genital warts, oropharyngeal and genitourinary cancers. The question then follows as to why male and female HPV vaccination rates remain low. It is the purpose of this research to better understand parental concerns among the Omaha community regarding the HPV vaccine.

Design: After Institutional Review board (IRB) approval an online survey was developed and emailed to parents with children ages 13-18 years who had not completed the HPV vaccination and who were in the Children's Physicians Dundee clinic in Omaha in 2016. Parents were asked to give demographic information in addition to answering questions regarding reasons for not vaccinating and concerns with the vaccine. We analyzed the data to assess various concerns contributing to incomplete HPV vaccination.

Findings: Preliminary survey data from 37 parents were collected and analyzed. 40.54% (15/37) of parents responded that their child was in the process of completing the three-dose series. 32.43% (12/37) reported concerns that the vaccine was not safe for their child. 10.81% (4/37) reported that their child did not need the vaccine because their child was not sexually active. 8.11% (3/37) reported having cultural, religious or personal beliefs for HPV vaccine refusal. Parental concerns were consistent across gender, age, and race of their child.

Implications for Practice: Many parents are in the process of completing the series, and accept strong vaccine recommendations from the provider. However, some parents continue to have concerns about the safety of the vaccine, while some are hesitant because their child is not sexually active. This survey highlights the need for patient and parental education by the consistent provider message about vaccine safety and cancer prevention by HPV vaccine. Concerns of cost, and misunderstandings that the vaccine is available for both sexes are less of a concern in this population.