Factors influencing parental HPV vaccine acceptance based on child gender: An integrative literature review

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Introduction

The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine was licensed for use in females in 2006 and for males in 2009 to prevent genital warts and HPV related cancers. Despite the availability of the vaccine and previous research indicating a willingness or intention of parents to vaccinate their children, vaccination rates remain low. The objective of this literature review is to summarize findings from studies that identify factors that parents of eligible vaccine recipients between 9 and 17 years of age report influenced their acceptance or non-acceptance of the HPV vaccine for their child at the time of an actual decision to initiate vaccination.

Methods


Inclusion criteria: The study reported parent identified factors affecting the decision to accept or decline the HPV vaccine for their vaccine eligible children less than 18 year of age at the time of actual decision to vaccinate.

Exclusion criteria: Articles were excluded if 1) the article was not available, 2) the outcomes of the study were not relevant to the objective of this review, 3) the study was not done in the U.S., 4) the study was not original research, 5) the study was a duplicate found in another database, 6) vaccine recipients were over 17 years of age, 7) the vaccination decision was hypothetical or intent to vaccinate versus actual.

PRISMA FLOW DIAGRAM

126 record identified through database searching

0 of additional record identified through other sources

89 records after duplicates removed

84 full-text articles assessed for eligibility

53 outcome not relevant 24 not done in the U.S. 1 not original research

6 studies included in the analysis

Results

Parental considerations when declining the HPV vaccine

Most Frequently Stated Reasons for Accepting or Declining the HPV Vaccination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author &amp; Date</th>
<th>Primary Reasons for Accepting</th>
<th>Primary Reasons for Declining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dempsky et al. (2009)</td>
<td>Protection from disease</td>
<td>Concern for vaccine safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morales et al. (2012)</td>
<td>Protection from disease</td>
<td>Lack of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughes et al. (2011)</td>
<td>Provider recommendation</td>
<td>Vaccine could cause future health problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savas et al. (2013)</td>
<td>Provider recommendation</td>
<td>Vaccine could cause future health problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rader et al. (2013)</td>
<td>Provider recommendation</td>
<td>Did not know boys could get the vaccine (at baseline)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander et al. (2012)</td>
<td>Protection from disease</td>
<td>Felt wanted to consult with the father</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions

- Provider recommendation is the most common reason parents accept the HPV vaccine regardless of child gender.
- Reasons that parents decline the HPV vaccine fall most often in the category of perceived barriers regardless of child gender.
- Lack of knowledge is the most common reason parents decline the HPV vaccine for their child regardless of gender.
- Parents declined the HPV vaccine due to lack of susceptibility based on young age and perceived sexual activity status of their child regardless of gender.
- Factors unique to parents of females included a perceived lack of severity related to cervical cancer, concern for lack of long-term data, a desire to include the daughter in the decision, religious values.
- Factors unique to parents of males included not knowing that boys could receive the vaccine and reported feelings of uncertainty about the vaccine.
- Overall, there were more similarities than differences in the factors influencing parental HPV vaccination by child gender.
- Further studies are needed to identify and reduce barriers (cognitive, values based, psychological) and facilitate provider communication.