

# Perception and Understanding of a Positive HPV Screening Result Prior to Colposcopy: The ROSE Experience

**Mahirah Ma'som<sup>1</sup>, Liyann Ooi<sup>1</sup>, Isabelle Tan Min Hsi<sup>1</sup>, Nazrilla Hairizan Nasir<sup>2</sup>, Patti Gravitt<sup>3</sup>, Julia Brotherton<sup>4</sup>, Farhana Sultana<sup>4</sup>, David Hawkes<sup>4</sup>, Marion Saville<sup>4</sup>, Woo Yin Ling<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, <sup>2</sup>Ministry of Health, Malaysia, <sup>3</sup>University of Maryland, United States of America, <sup>4</sup>VCS Foundation, Melbourne, Australia

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** World Health Organization recommends HPV testing as a primary cervical screening method. Although there are many benefits to HPV testing compared to the conventional Pap smear, there are many misconceptions surrounding HPV and testing positive for HPV may present adverse socio-psychological impact among Malaysian women. **Objective:** To explore the perceptions and understanding of a positive HPV screening result among Malaysian women prior to follow-up treatment at a tertiary care hospital. **Method:** Participants were 48 women who had undergone an HPV screening test and tested positive for oncogenic HPV. The test results were sent to participants' mobile phone and participants were referred to a specialist in University Malaya Medical Centre for colposcopy. Prior to colposcopy, participants were given an information sheet that explains a positive HPV test result. Then, participants completed a questionnaire assessing their emotional response towards a positive HPV test result before and after reading the information sheet and their perceived risk of developing cervical cancer. **Results:** Women reported feeling "frightened" (85%), "nervous" (89%), "confused" (83%) and "worried" (96%) upon receiving a positive HPV test result. However, their anxiety levels decreased significantly after reading an information sheet provided to them, whereby 92% found the information sheet to be helpful. Nonetheless, 23% of the participants thought that they had cancer and 19% did not discuss their results with anyone. **Conclusion:** The implementation of HPV testing for cervical screening needs to include extensive health education to address the socio-psychological impact of a HPV positive result.

GY-42

# Prevalence and Sociodemographic Correlates of Oro-Anogenital Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Carriage in a Cross-sectional, Multiethnic, Community-based Male Asian Population

**Su Pei Khoo<sup>1</sup>, Mohd Khairul Anwar Shafii<sup>1</sup>, Nirmala Bhoo-Pathy<sup>1</sup>, Siew Hwei Yap<sup>1</sup>, Nazrila Hairizan Nasir<sup>2</sup>, Jerome Belinson<sup>3</sup>, Pik Pin Goh<sup>4</sup>, Xinfeng Qu<sup>3</sup>, Patti Gravitt<sup>5</sup>, Yin Ling Woo<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, <sup>2</sup>Family Health Development Division, Ministry of Health, Putrajaya, Malaysia, <sup>3</sup>Preventive Oncology International Inc and the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, USA, <sup>4</sup>National Clinical Research Centre, Ministry of Health, Selangor, Malaysia, <sup>5</sup>University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Baltimore, MD USA

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** The incidence rate of male HPV associated cancers have shown a significant increasing trend over the past decades. Addressing the burden of HPV-associated diseases among men is increasingly becoming a public health issue. **Objectives:** The main objective of this study was to determine HPV prevalence among healthy community based Malaysian men. This will assist in strategic planning aimed at reducing the burden of potentially HPV-vaccine preventable diseases. **Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study that recruited 502 healthy males aged 18 to 60 years old via convenience sampling from three community-based clinics in Selangor, Malaysia. Genital, anal and oral samples were collected from each participant and tested for 16 HPV DNA genotypes (14 high-risk (HR) and two low-risk (LR) strains). All participants provided detailed sociodemographic and sexual behaviour data during an interviewer-administered questionnaire. **Results:** The median age at enrolment was 40 years old (IQR: 31-50). The oro-anogenital HPV6/11 prevalence was 2.9% whereas HR-HPV prevalence was 27.6%. The genital HPV prevalence for HPV6/11 was 2.7% while HR-HPV was 18.8%. HPV6/11 prevalence in the anal canal was 1.6% and HR-HPV was 12.7%. For oral cavity, HPV6/11 prevalence was found to be 0.2% and HR-HPV was 0.8%. HPV 18 was the most prevalent genotype detected in all three genitals, anal and oral sites. **Conclusions:** Anogenital HR-HPV is common among Malaysian men while oral HR-HPV infection was uncommon. These findings emphasize the ubiquity of HPV infection and thus the value of population-wide access to HPV prevention.