Health organizations, patient advocates to Congress: We can and must eliminate HPV-related cancers

In May of 2018 the World Health Organization (WHO) Director General released a call to action for the global elimination of cervical cancer, a preventable and curable cancer.

We the undersigned, including medical and public health organizations, and patient advocates, endorse the WHO goal and advocate for the United States (U.S.) to take action toward the elimination of cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) through gender-neutral HPV vaccination and evidence-based cancer screening.

The U.S. can and should be one of the first countries to achieve elimination of cervical cancer, with other HPV-related cancers in males and females to follow. Therefore, we issue the following Call to Action in alignment with the U.S. Heathy People 2020 goals:

- Complete vaccination of more than 80 percent of males and females ages 13-15 by 2020
- Screen 93 percent of age-eligible females for cervical cancer by 2020
- Provide prompt follow up and proper treatment of females who screen positive for high grade cervical pre-cancerous lesions

The above interventions are the optimal route to cervical cancer elimination. They have been proven beneficial and cost-effective in both low- and high-resource settings, and therefore are recommended as priority health measures in all countries.

We can and must contribute resources needed to implement these strategies.

Consider the facts:

- Only 53.1 percent of girls and 44.3 percent of boys, ages 13-17 years, in the U.S. completed the vaccine series in 2017.[1]
- Today, over 33,000 HPV-related cancers are diagnosed among men (oropharyngeal, anal, and penile cancers) and women (oropharyngeal, cervical, anal, vulvar, and vaginal cancers) every year in the U.S. This includes 12,000 cases of cervical cancer.[2]
- 630,000 cases of HPV-related cancers are diagnosed each year worldwide.[3] By 2040 approximately 500,000 women are predicted to die of cervical cancer each year as the global burden of cervical cancer is growing.[4]

Continuation of the status quo is not an option. For the first time in history we have the opportunity to eliminate up to six cancers affecting both men and women.

We call on stakeholders across multiple sectors to join us in making a commitment to realizing the elimination of cervical cancer and other HPV-related cancers globally.

1. Walker TY, Elam-Evans LD, Yankey D, et al. National, Regional, State, and Selected Local Area Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13-17 Years – United States, 2017. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2018;67:909-17.
2. Van Dyne EA, Henley SJ, Saraiya M, et al. Trends in Human Papillomavirus-Associated Cancers – United States, 1999-2015. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2018;67:918-24.
3. de Martel C, Plummer M, Vignat J, Franceschi S. Worldwide burden of cancer attributable to HPV by site, country and HPV type. IJC 2017;141:664-70.
4. GLOBOCAN 2018 Graph production: IARC (http://gco.iarc.fr/today) World Health Organization

We can and must eliminate HPV-related cancers

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) advocates for the United States to take action toward the elimination of cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) through gender-neutral HPV vaccination and evidence-based cancer screening. The U.S. can and should be one of the first countries to achieve elimination of cervical cancer, with other HPV-related cancers in males and females to follow. AACI cancer centers call on stakeholders across multiple sectors to join us in making a commitment to realizing the elimination of cervical cancer and other HPV-related cancers globally.















































































