

2026 ANNUAL MEETING



Oral Abstract 24: Postpartum HPV Vaccination Uptake: Attitudes, Beliefs, and Determinants of Acceptance

Presenting Author: Jessica Currier, PhD, MPH, Oregon Health & Science University, Knight Cancer Institute

Topic
Cervical

Objectives

High-risk human Papillomavirus (hrHPV) is associated with cervical, vulvar, vaginal, penile, anal, and oropharyngeal cancers. Although vaccination rates in the United States are increasing, series completion remains below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 80%. The postpartum period represents a potentially high-yield opportunity to initiate and/or complete HPV vaccination. This study examined attitudes and beliefs regarding HPV vaccination among previously unvaccinated postpartum individuals and compared perspectives between those who accepted and declined vaccination.

Methods

The HPV vaccine was offered to all postpartum individuals aged 18-26 who had not yet completed the vaccine series. Participants were grouped by vaccine acceptance status. Using a mixed-methods design, quantitative data including a survey of vaccine knowledge was summarized, and qualitative interviews were conducted and analyzed using thematic analysis and grounded theory to identify key themes influencing vaccine attitudes and beliefs.

Results

Eighty-nine participants were included in the dataset. Of those, 53% (n=48) accepted vaccination, slightly lower than the national average among women aged 16-26 (~56%-57%). HPV vaccine knowledge was not associated with vaccine acceptance. HPV knowledge was lower among those who accepted the vaccine compared to those who declined (41.7% vs. 56.1% with sufficient knowledge, p-value=0.252). Qualitative findings revealed that belief in the vaccine's cancer prevention benefits was a primary motivator for vaccine acceptance. Multiple interactions with the health care system during pregnancy and postpartum periods were identified as ideal opportunities for counseling about the vaccine's cancer prevention quality.

Conclusions

Pregnancy and postpartum care represent critical, underutilized opportunities to improve HPV vaccine uptake. Framing vaccination around its cancer prevention benefits appears to be a key driver of acceptance, even among individuals with limited baseline knowledge. Integrating targeted counseling during the pregnancy period and offering vaccination during routine postpartum care is a promising approach to increase initiation and completion rates.

Uploaded File(s)

Abstract Table or Graph

[INEXBJK-2393696-1-ANY.pdf](#)