



**A Strategy Symposium
March 24-25, 2009 – Berkeley, California**

**PREDICTORS OF PHYSICIANS' INTENTION TO RECOMMEND
HPV VACCINATION IN MYSORE, INDIA**

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OBJECTIVE

The Government of India has recently approved an optional HPV vaccine for adolescent girls. This study examined knowledge and attitudes about HPV vaccination and intention to recommend HPV vaccination by health care providers in Mysore, India.

METHODS

Twenty in-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted between April and August 2008 with physicians from a mix of specialties serving adolescent girl patients. Interviewees were identified through snowball sampling and referrals from professional organizations. Data were coded and subjected to thematic analysis.

RESULTS

Of the interviewees, 6 specialized in ObGyn, 9 in Pediatrics, and 5 in either Family or General practice. Eight of the physicians owned their own practice, 3 worked in government hospitals, and the remainder in private hospitals. More than half of participants (65%) said they had little or no information about the relationship between HPV infection and cervical cancer.

Several cited lack of knowledge as the main reason for not recommending vaccination. Intention to recommend HPV vaccination varied with specialty with most pediatricians stating they intend to recommend the HPV vaccine followed by Family and General Practitioners and ObGyn. The high cost of the HPV vaccine was most often mentioned (16, 80%) as the main obstacle to vaccine uptake. The second most mentioned reason (8, 40%) was that patients might not elect vaccination because of the misplaced conviction that their daughters were not sexually active.

CONCLUSIONS

Uptake of HPV vaccination will be low in India without further training and health promotion on HPV vaccination among physicians and the public.