



5th CONGRESS

OF PHARMACISTS OF BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA WITH INTERNATIONAL
PARTICIPATION



ABSTRACT BOOK

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***„Competencies of pharmacists – from drug design
to successful disease treatment“***

Sarajevo, November 9th – 12th, 2023

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INVITED LECTURES

ABOUT THE HPV VACCINE: HOW IT WORKS AND WHO CAN GET IT

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVE

Human papilloma viruses (HPV) are small non-enveloped DNA viruses that possess great affinity for epithelial tissue. So far, more than 200 genotypes of HPV have been identified, of which around 40 types are associated with genital infections in man and woman. HPV is the most sexually transmitted virus in the world leading to the fact that HPV infection is the major cause of cervical cancer. Besides, HPV is thought to be responsible for more than 90% of anal cancer, 70% of vaginal and vulvar cancer, 70% of oropharyngeal cancer and 60% of penile cancer [1, 2]. HPV vaccination is the most effective procedure in prevention of HPV-related cancers. Prophylactic 9-valent HPV vaccine which targets high-risk HPV types is the most preferable one and is available in many countries worldwide including Balkan region. The main goal of this presentation is to improve awareness of great importance of HPV vaccination in target populations.

METHODS

This review aims to present how the HPV vaccination induces protective immunity and to address the effectiveness, safety aspects of the HPV vaccination and primary target groups.

RESULTS

HPV vaccine is developed using recombinant DNA technology and it is based on L1 HPV capsid proteins which have the ability to self-assemble into structures known as Virus Like Particles (VLPs). The main characteristic of VLPs is that these structures are similar to original virus, but do not have viral DNA genome which means that VLPs are noninfectious and nononcogenic [3]. HPV vaccination activates humoral immunity and production of antigen-specific neutralizing antibodies [4]. The HPV vaccination is recommended for girls and boys at age 11-12 years. Results from clinical trials and the real world data showed that vaccination provides high level of protection with estimated vaccine effectiveness between 83%-96,1% and that prophylactic 9-valent HPV vaccine (Gardasil) is largely considered safe to use [5, 6].

CONCLUSIONS

Community pharmacists have an invaluable role in increasing awareness, knowledge and dissemination of accurate information on HPV vaccine. These activities of community pharmacists through everyday interaction with patients can highly impact HPV vaccine acceptance in positive way. Education of community pharmacists, as well as broader population, is of great importance to improve HPV vaccine coverage in Balkan region.

KEYWORDS

HPV; HPV vaccination; vaccine acceptance