UNIVERSITY BIRMINGHAM University of Birmingham Research at Birmingham

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine effectiveness and potential herd immunity for reducing oncogenic oropharyngeal HPV16 prevalence in the UK

Mehanna, Hesham; Bryant, Tyler S; Babrah, Jaspreet; Louie, Karly; Bryant, Jennifer; Spruce, Rachel; Batis, Nikolaos; Olaleye, Oladejo; Jones, June; Struijk, Linda; Molijn, Anco; Vorsters, Alex; Rosillon, Dominique; Taylor, Sylvia; D'Souza, Gypsyamber

DOI: 10.1093/cid/ciy1081

License: Other (please specify with Rights Statement)

Document Version Peer reviewed version

Citation for published version (Harvard):

Mehanna, H, Bryant, TS, Babrah, J, Louie, K, Bryant, J, Spruce, R, Batis, N, Olaleye, O, Jones, J, Struijk, L, Molijn, A, Vorsters, A, Rosillon, D, Taylor, S & D'Souza, G 2018, 'Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine effectiveness and potential herd immunity for reducing oncogenic oropharyngeal HPV16 prevalence in the UK: a cross-sectional study', *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciy1081

Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal

Publisher Rights Statement: Checked for eligibility: 17/12/2018

This is the accepted manuscript for a forthcoming publication in Clinical Infectious Diseases.

General rights

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
 Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

Take down policy

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.

Download date: 01. Mar. 2020

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine effectiveness and potential herd immunity for
 reducing oncogenic oropharyngeal HPV16 prevalence in the UK; a cross-sectional study

3 Authors

Hisham Mehanna¹, Tyler S Bryant², Jaspreet Babrah³, Karly Louie⁴, Jennifer L Bryant¹, Rachel J
Spruce¹, Nikolaos Batis¹, Oladejo Olaleye¹, June Jones¹, Linda Struijk⁵, Anco Molijn⁵, Alex
Vorsters⁶, Dominique Rosillon⁷, Sylvia Taylor⁷, Gypsyamber D'Souza²

7

¹H Mehanna, Chair of Head and Neck Surgery and Director; J Bryant, Post-doctoral Research
Fellow; N Batis, Post-doctoral Research Fellow; R Spruce, Post-doctoral Research Fellow; O
Olaleye, Clinical Research Fellow and Specialty Registrar in Otolaryngology, Head and Neck
Surgery; and J Jones, Senior Research Nurse, the Institute of Head & Neck Studies and
Education, College of Medical and Dental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham,
B15 2TT, UK.

²G D'Souza, Associate Professor, and TS Bryant, Medical Student, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg
 School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA

³J Babrah, Senior Trials Coordinator, Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit, University of
 Birmingham, Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK.

⁴K Louie, Senior Epidemiologist and Statistician, Centre for Cancer Prevention, Wolfson
Institute of Preventive Medicine, Queen Mary University of London, London, EC1M 6BQ, UK.

⁵L Struijk, Project Leader, and AC Molijn, Director of Operations, DDL Diagnostic Laboratory,
2288 ER, Rijswijk, The Netherlands.

22	⁶ A Vorsters, Senior Project Coordinator/Researcher, Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination,								
23	Vaccine and Infectious Disease Institute, University of Antwerp, 2610 Antwerp, Belgium.								
24	⁷ D Rosillon, Biostatistician in Epidemiology, and S Taylor, Senior Manager, Clinical and								
25	Epidemiology Research Development, GSK, 1300 Wavre, Belgium.								
26	Corresponding Author								
27	Prof Hisham Mehanna								
28	Email: h.mehanna@bham.ac.uk Web: www.inhanse.org								
29	Key Words								
30	Head and neck cancer, vaccination, oropharyngeal cancer, cancer prevention, clinical trial.								
31	Running title: HPV vaccination and oral HPV prevalence								
32	Key Points								
33	• HPV-related oropharyngeal cancers are rapidly increasing.								
34	• This study shows that vaccinating girls in a national programme against HPV reduces								
35	oropharyngeal oncogenic HPV16 infection.								
36	• The data also show low oral HPV 16 prevalence in unvaccinated boys, suggesting								
37	potential herd immunity.								
38									

39 Word count: Abstract: 239 Manuscript: 2721

40 Abstract

41 Background

Oropharyngeal cancer incidence is rapidly rising due to human papillomavirus (HPV) 16 infection. The dearth of data on effectiveness of national girl-only vaccination program in preventing oral HPV infection and the potential herd immunity effect on unvaccinated boys has resulted in considerable controversy regarding the need to vaccinate boys, especially in countries with high vaccination coverage of girls.

47 Methods

Subjects aged 0-65 years undergoing tonsillectomy for non-malignant indications were recruited in 6 UK hospitals. Oral samples were collected in following order: oral rinse, tongue base and pharyngeal wall brushes, then tonsil tissue (tonsillectomy). Vaccination data was obtained from regional health authorities. All samples were centrally tested for HPV-DNA by PCR amplification. (NCT01330147).

53 **Results**

Of 940 subjects, 243 girls and 69 boys were aged 12-24; median age 18.6 years. 189 (78%) girls and no boys received HPV vaccination. Overall, oropharyngeal-HPV16 prevalence in vaccinated girls was significantly lower than unvaccinated girls (0.5% vs 5.6%, p=0.04). In contrast, prevalence of any oropharyngeal-HPV type was similar in vaccinated and unvaccinated girls (19% vs 20%, p=0.76). Oropharyngeal-HPV16 prevalence in (unvaccinated) boys was similar to vaccinated girls (0% vs 0.5%, p>0.99), and lower than unvaccinated girls (0% vs 5.6%, p=0.08).

60 **Conclusions**

Our findings indicate that the UK girl-only national vaccination program is associated with significant reductions in oropharyngeal-HPV16 infections in children and young adults. This is also the first data to suggest potential herd immunity from girl-only vaccination against oropharyngeal HPV infection in contemporaneously-aged boys.

65

67 **Introduction**

Infection with human papillomaviruses (HPV) can cause oropharyngeal cancers, as well as 68 cervical, anal, penile, and vulvovaginal cancers, and genital warts. HPV is the main cause for the 69 increasing incidence of oropharyngeal cancers in the USA and many Western European 70 countries[1-5], and affects three times as many men than women. HPV16 has been identified as 71 the primary type causing these cancers[4, 5]. Three HPV vaccines are now licensed in many 72 countries worldwide; the HPV-16/18 AS04-adjuvanted vaccine (AS04-HPV-16/18v, Cervarix, 73 GSK) and the four- (4vHPVv) and nine-valent (9vHPVv) Sulfate d'hydroxyphosphate 74 d'aluminium-adjuvanted vaccines (Gardasil, Merck). These vaccines have been shown to prevent 75 anogenital HPV16/18 infection and high-grade cervical and anogenital lesions[6-11]. The AS04-76 HPV-16/18 vaccine targets two types of HPV that together cause more than 70% of cervical 77 cancer (HPV16 and 18) and has also shown cross-protection against HPV types 31, 33, and 45, 78 the next most common HPV types in cervical cancer [12-15]. As well as HPV16 and 18, the 79 4vHPV vaccine targets HPV6 and 11, which cause over 86% of genital warts[16]. The 9vHPV 80 vaccine (against HPV-6/11/16/18/31/33/45/52/58) has also been recently approved in many 81 countries[17]. 82

83

HPV vaccination was first introduced in the UK in September 2008, with AS04-HPV-16/18v
offered to all girls aged 12-13 years (UK Year 8) as well as all girls aged 14-17 as part of a timelimited catch-up program, with a switch to 4vHPV vaccine in September 2012. HPV vaccination
in UK girls has had high uptake with 77% of 12-13 year-olds and 49% of 14-17 year-olds in the
"catch-up" cohort having received all three doses[18].

In addition to trial data demonstrating that HPV vaccination effectively reduces cervical HPV infection and precancerous lesions, there have now been several studies showing population effects of national vaccination program. A systematic review and meta-analysis and several studies of the impact of national immunization program have shown considerable reductions in the risk of cervical HPV16/18 and HPV31/33/45 infections, anogenital warts, and cervical abnormalities (including invasive HPV-associated cancers) among women vaccinated before 20 years of age[15, 19-24].

To date, the effect of vaccination on oral HPV infection has not been well explored. Secondary 96 analysis of a randomized controlled trial assessing AS04-HPV-16/18 vaccine efficacy on cervical 97 HPV in Costa Rica[25] demonstrated that vaccination was associated with a 93% (95% CI 63% -98 99 100%) decrease in the prevalence of oral HPV16/18 in adult women four years after vaccination. More recently, evidence has been reported supporting reduced HPV6/11/16/18 oral prevalence 100 rates in vaccinated compared to unvaccinated 18-33 year old subjects in the USA (0.11% vs 1.61 101 %, p=0.08)[26]. Importantly, all studies have been carried out using oral rinse, and there have 102 been no studies examining HPV prevalence using oral rinse and tonsil tissue together, or the 103 effect of the vaccine on HPV prevalence in tonsil tissue (the primary site of oropharyngeal 104 105 cancer). In addition, there have been no studies evaluating the efficacy of vaccination programs on oral HPV prevalence in children, or studying protection of boys from oral HPV infection by 106 the potential herd effect from a national girl-only vaccination program. 107

To address that, this study aimed to assess the effect of HPV vaccination on HPV prevalence in tonsillar tissue and oral exfoliated cells among girls and young adult women in the UK undergoing voluntary tonsillectomy for non-malignant indications, and to compare levels of infection to those of unvaccinated, contemporaneous young males of the same age.

112 Methods

113 Study Design

This paper uses data collected in the Oromouth study (NCT01330147), a cohort of 940 patients 114 (340 males, 600 females) aged 0-65 years old undergoing tonsillectomy for non-malignant 115 indications. Subjects were enrolled across 6 hospitals in the U.K. from 2013-2015. To assess 116 vaccine effectiveness, we concentrated the analysis on female subjects aged 12-24 at enrollment 117 who could have been vaccinated under the national UK HPV vaccination program, and on 118 contemporaneous males of the same age. The West Midlands - Solihull National Health Service 119 Research Ethics Committee approved this study (approval no 11/WM/0283) and all patients or 120 parent(s)/legal guardian(s) gave written informed consent. 121

122

123 Data Collection

Oral samples were collected in the following order: oral mucosal transudate (using Oracol S10 124 devices- Malvern Medical Developments) followed by a 60 second, sterile-saline oral rinse and 125 gargle, then an oropharyngeal brush of the base of tongue (using Orcellex brushes; Rovers, The 126 Netherlands), then an oropharyngeal brush of the posterior pharyngeal wall, and finally, all left 127 and right tonsil tissue by tonsillectomy. Further details on collection and processing of all 128 samples are provided in supplementary methods and figure S1. Urine, blood and nail brush 129 samples were also collected pre-operatively (results not reported here). Samples were collected 130 using pre-defined protocols by research nurses and surgeons who were trained before embarking 131 on the study. 132

A standardized survey was completed by participants (sample shown in Figure S2, Supplementary Material). The survey included detailed demographic information, vaccination and clinical history, and for subjects 16 years and older sexual, smoking, and drinking behaviors. To avoid feelings of embarrassment and under-reporting by patients, surveys forms had unique identifiers only, with no names, and were submitted in closed envelopes deposited in locked ballot-type boxes, only to be opened by researchers who were independent and did not know the clinical teams.

Data on vaccination was obtained from the regional health authorities that provided information on which patients received vaccination through the school program and the catch-up program, and how many doses they received.

A study log was maintained to record those approached to be part of the Oromouth study and to record reasons for lack of consent. A total of 1356 individuals were approached, of which 71.6% consented. The main reasons for not gaining consent were patients refusing (38.9%) and parents declining (21.5%). Of this cohort, 30 patients were part of a pilot study and were therefore not included in the analysis for the main study.

148

149 *Processing and HPV testing of samples*

All samples were tested centrally for the presence of HPV DNA by PCR amplification using the HPV SPF₁₀ PCR-DEIA (DNA enzyme immunoassay)-LiPA₂₅ (Line probe assay) version 1 (Laboratory Biomedical Products, Rijswijk, The Netherlands). Briefly, this broad-spectrum PCRbased HPV DNA testing system uses SPF₁₀ primers to amplify and a DNA enzyme immunoassay to detect at least 57 HPV genotypes and the LiPA₂₅ line probe assay to genotype 25 carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic HPVs in all samples (HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33 to 35, 39, 40, 42 to 45, 51 to 54, 56, 58, 59, 66, 68, 70, and 74)[27, 28]. To increase the specificity of type-specific detection of HPV using the SPF₁₀ DEIA system, all specimens that were SPF₁₀ PCR/DEIApositive were tested with the E6-based multiplex type-specific system (MPTS123) that uses xMAP technology (Luminex, Austin, TX, USA)[29]. The HPV types detected by the MPTS123 assay are HPV types 16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, 66, 68, 6, and 11). See Supplementary materials for details.

Oropharyngeal HPV positivity was defined as HPV DNA detection in any of the collected oral
samples (oral rinse, either of the oral brushes, or the tonsillar tissue samples) regardless of type.
Oncogenic, or high-risk HPV (HR-HPV) was defined as types 16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52,
58, or 59 based upon previous work.[30]

166

167 *Risk of bias mitigation*

168 Consecutive patients were recruited to avoid bias. Samples were analyzed at laboratories in a 169 blinded fashion, with no knowledge of patient characteristics or behaviors. Questionnaires were 170 collected and analyzed in a pseudo-anonymized manner, as described above.

171

172 Statistical Analysis

173 In this pre-specified analysis of secondary outcome measures, demographic characteristics, risk 174 factors, and sample-specific HPV prevalence for girls and boys aged 12-24 years were compared 175 by vaccination status and tested for differences using Pearson's chi-squared tests or Fisher's

Exact test. The following HPV type-specific outcomes for prevalence were compared between 176 differences by vaccinated and unvaccinated subjects and by sample type: HPV16, HPV16/18, 177 HPV31/33/45, any oncogenic HPV, and any HPV. To explore previously found cross-protective 178 effects of Cervarix (AS04-HPV-16/18v) vaccination[12-14] with HPV types 31, 33, and/or 45, 179 positivity to these types was considered as a separate outcome. Logistic regressions were 180 performed for each of the outcomes to test the association between vaccination and prevalence of 181 HPV after controlling for age. Because behavioral factors were collected for subjects aged 16 and 182 above, there were insufficient vaccinated patient numbers to undertake multiple logistic 183 184 regressions to adjust for behavioral factors.

186 **Results**

Of the 940 subjects in the study, there were 243 girls and 69 boys aged 12-24, with a median age of 18.6 years (Interquartile range 16.3-20.7) and 19.1 years (IQR=15.0-21.0) respectively. Of the girls, 189 (78%) received HPV vaccination. None of the boys were vaccinated. Girls who were vaccinated were more likely than unvaccinated girls to be white (90% vs 76%, p=0.03) and <20 years old at enrollment (70% vs. 54%, p=0.01), but were similar in terms of enrollment center, year enrolled, and sexual behavior. 89% of those vaccinated received the AS04-HPV-16/18 vaccine (Table 1).

194 *Effect of vaccination on HPV prevalence*

HPV prevalence was compared in vaccinated and unvaccinated girls, by HPV type and by sample 195 type (Figure 1, Table 2). Overall oropharyngeal HPV16 prevalence was significantly lower in 196 vaccinated than unvaccinated girls (0.5% vs 5.6%, p=0.04). Prevalence of oropharyngeal HPV16 197 appeared lower among vaccinated than unvaccinated girls in both the routine and catch-up 198 vaccination cohorts (Table S1). Prevalence of oropharyngeal HPV16 and/or 18 together (1.1% vs 199 5.6%, p=0.07) also appeared to be reduced (Figure 1). All four participants who had 200 oropharyngeal HPV16 infections had HPV16 detected in tonsillar tissue. Only one of these 201 participants with tonsillar HPV16 had HPV16 detected in an oral rinse sample. Of the four 202 participants with oropharyngeal HPV 16 infections, three were unvaccinated and one was 203 vaccinated participant. The vaccinated participant was a girl who was 20 years old when she 204 enrolled in the study in 2015, reported receiving 3 doses of AS04-HPV-16/18v, had 8 oral sex 205 partners, and was a current smoker. One (vaccinated) participant had an oropharyngeal HPV18 206 207 infection detected in an oral brush sample.

Oropharyngeal prevalence of HPV31, 33, and/or 45 was 0% in vaccinated girls compared to 1.9% (1 case) in unvaccinated girls (p=0.22). Prevalence of any type of oropharyngeal HPV (19% vs 20%, p=0.76) or any oncogenic HPV type (7.4% vs. 7.4%, p>0.99) was similar in vaccinated and unvaccinated girls. Adjustment for age did not change results materially (Table S2).

Next, HPV prevalence among unvaccinated boys 12-24 years of age was compared to that among 213 unvaccinated and vaccinated girls of the same ages. There were no oropharyngeal HPV16 or 214 HPV18 infections detected among boys. Indeed, oropharyngeal HPV16 prevalence in boys 215 appears to be similar to vaccinated girls (0% vs0.5%, p>0.99), and lower than unvaccinated girls 216 (0% vs 5.6%, p=0.08) (Figure 1, Table 2). Among 84 older males in the study, aged 25 to 56, 217 prevalence of oropharyngeal HPV16 (7.1%, p=0.03), and of combined oropharyngeal HPV16 218 and/or HPV18 infections (8.3%, p=0.02), were significantly higher than that observed among the 219 12-24 year old boys (Figure 2, Table S3). 220

221

222 *Effect of vaccination by sample type*

When considering each sample type separately, HPV16 prevalence in tonsillar tissue samples was significantly lower in vaccinated than unvaccinated women aged 12-24 years (HPV16: 0.5% vs 5.6%, p=0.04). Only one non-HPV16 type was detected in tonsillar samples in this age group, an HPV6 infection in a participant aged 17 years who received 3 doses of AS04-HPV-16/18v. When considering HPV16 in oral rinse samples alone, smaller differences were seen between vaccinated girls aged 12-24 years old, compared to unvaccinated ones (0% vs 1.9%, p=0.44) (Table 2). HPV detection in oropharyngeal brushes was low, with no HPV16 being detected.

231 Discussion

Our findings are the first to indicate that routine vaccination against HPV, as part of a national 232 program, is associated with reductions in oropharyngeal HPV16 infections (the primary HPV 233 type linked to oropharyngeal cancers) in children and young adults. Specifically, vaccination 234 reduces the prevalence of tonsillar HPV infections, which is the commonest site of oropharyngeal 235 cancer and for which data has hitherto been lacking. This data are consistent with data in adults 236 from post-hoc analyses of the GSK HPV-040 study[31]; with a randomized controlled trial in 237 Costa Rica[25] and with recent data from the USA[32]. The differences in oropharyngeal 238 HPV16 infection shown within this relatively small study population suggests that the population 239 impact of the UK vaccination program on oropharyngeal HPV is likely to be substantial. 240

Importantly, our data also demonstrate low HPV16 prevalence amongst unvaccinated boys aged 241 12-24 years old. Boys' prevalence rates were similar to rates in vaccinated girls, and considerably 242 lower than in unvaccinated girls and males aged 25 and over, despite boys reporting significantly 243 more sexual activity (ever had sex) and more sexual partners than vaccinated girls. This effect 244 was also demonstrated despite a likely reduction in prevalence rates in unvaccinated girls due to 245 the potential herd effect from vaccinated girls, as demonstrated for cervical infections in 246 Scotland, England and the Netherlands [15, 21, 23, 24, 33]. Previously, the only evidence of any 247 potential herd immunity in males from the UK girls vaccination program was a reported 62% 248 reduction in genital warts in heterosexual boys and young men in England since 2009[34]. Our 249 data may be one of the first indications of a potential herd immunity effect from the girls-only 250 vaccination program on oropharyngeal HPV infection in contemporaneously-aged boys. If 251 confirmed in larger population based studies, these new findings could carry important 252

implications for the decision to extend national HPV vaccination programs to include boys,where there is high coverage of girls.

255

No previous study has had the opportunity to prospectively test tonsillar tissue for HPV in 256 vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. The few studies available were undertaken 257 retrospectively on formalin fixed tissue samples from historic cohorts and have reported rates of 258 0-1%[35-37]. By including tonsillar samples in our combined oropharyngeal HPV outcome, we 259 were able to detect HPV in participants with greater sensitivity than by oral rinse alone. We were 260 therefore able to find HPV in considerably more subjects, enabling us to detect a compelling 261 difference in HPV16 prevalence between the vaccinated and unvaccinated groups in the tissue 262 expected to be most relevant for disease. These results suggest that current estimates of oral 263 HPV16 prevalence rates, based predominantly on oral rinse samples, may be an under-estimate of 264 the true prevalence. It should be noted that more HPV16 was identified in tonsils than oral rinse 265 samples, whereas HPV subtypes overall were identified much more commonly in oral rinse than 266 tonsil samples. This may reflect a predilection of HPV16 to tonsils, compared to other HPV 267 subtypes. 268

Our study had limitations in that there were a small number of people with infection, especially for non-HPV16 oncogenic types, which limited the analyses and adjustments that could be undertaken. There was only one HPV18 case (in a vaccinated girl) and only one HPV31/33/45 infection detected in our study (in an unvaccinated girl), so we could not make reliable conclusions for non-HPV16 oncogenic infections or adequately evaluate the cross-protective effects that have been found in previous studies[12-14]. However, these are rare causes of HPV-

related oropharyngeal cancer. Furthermore, only participants aged 16 and older at enrollment 275 completed the risk behavior survey, and we therefore could not adjust for these factors in our 276 overall analysis without severely truncating our dataset. This means that residual confounding 277 could remain in the estimates from the logistic regression. However, when restricting analyses to 278 those who completed the survey and adjusting for behavioral risk factors, the results were of a 279 similar magnitude to those displayed by the whole sample (Table S2). Furthermore, we 280 undertook multiple analysis of secondary outcomes, with no control for multiplicity of 281 282 inferences, which should be kept in mind when interpreting these results. Despite these 283 limitations above, our results demonstrated convincing differences. Finally, more girls aged 12-24 were recruited compared to boys. This reflects a lower willingness of boys to agree to 284 participate in the study. This may introduce biases, albeit the prevalence of overall HPV and 285 importantly all (sexually transmitted) high risk HPV infections was the same in girls and boys of 286 the same age (data not shown) suggesting that the differences seen in HPV16prevalence were not 287 due to recruitment bias. 288

289

While the UK vaccination program was designed to prevent cervical cancers in women, the secondary effects of preventing oropharyngeal HPV infection are important to consider. With a rising public health focus on preventing HPV-positive oropharyngeal cancers due to their increasing incidence,[38] the effective reduction in oropharyngeal HPV16 prevalence in vaccinated adolescents and young adults seen in our study means that national vaccination programs could considerably reduce the incidence of oropharyngeal HPV cancers. Our study also demonstrated reduced oropharyngeal HPV16 prevalence in the vaccinated groups of both the routine and catch-up vaccine programs. As with cervical cancer, however, longitudinal data are
 necessary to fully establish the effectiveness of vaccination for preventing oropharyngeal cancers.

In summary, our results are one of the first to show that a girl-only vaccination program protects against oncogenic oropharyngeal HPV16 infection in girls and young women, and may also confer protection on contemporaneously-aged unvaccinated boys through potential herd immunity. This suggests that oropharyngeal HPV prevalence may be reduced by girl-only national HPV vaccination programs with high coverage.

304 Trademarks

305 *Cervarix* is a trade mark owned by or licensed to the GSK group of companies.

306 *Gardasil* is a trade mark of Merck & Co, Inc.

307 Acknowledgements

The authors thank all study participants and their families and all clinical study site personnel who contributed to the conduct of this trial. The authors also thank the following for their help in sample testing: Dimitrie Grégoire, Dominique Gilson, Stéphanie Maerlan, Nathalie Houard, Jean-Marc Delroisse, Serge Durviaux and Thierry Pascal; Pam Kalodimos, Corinne Willame, Monique Dodet, Edwin Kolp for their help in study coordination; Sylviane Poncelet and Martin Ryser for manuscript review, Sarah Welby for her review and input to the study and manuscript and Gemma Jones for manuscript preparation.

Funding: This work was supported by GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals SA with an unrestricted research grant.

317 Contributorship:

Hisham Mehanna conceived, designed, conducted and interpreted the study and wrote the 318 manuscript. Jennifer Bryant, Rachel Spruce, Nikolaos Batis, Oladejo Olaleye, Jaspreet Babrah 319 and June Jones conducted the study, interpreted results and wrote the manuscript. Sylvia Taylor 320 and Dominique Rosillon participated in the study design, analysis/interpretation of the data and 321 writing the manuscript. Gypsyamber D'souza and Tyler Bryant analysed the data and wrote the 322 manuscript. Anco Molijn, Linda Struijk and Alex Vorsters participated in the design of the 323 sampling procedures, laboratory testing and interpretation of the results and writing of the 324 325 manuscript.

326 Data Sharing: More data on HPV antibody status and urine HPV infections and on behavioral
327 survey are available on request from authors, and is being prepared for manuscript submission.

328 **Conflicts of Interest**

Sylvia Taylor and Dominique Rosillon are employees of the GSK group of companies and hold shares in the GSK group of companies. Hisham Mehanna has research grants and advisory consultancy fees from Astra Zeneca and Merck, Sharpe & Dohlme, and previous grants from the GSK group of companies, unrelated to this study or research area. All other authors declare no competing interest. No authors have relationships or activities that could appear to influence the submitted work.

335

337		REFERENCES
338		
339	1.	D'Souza G, Kreimer AR, Viscidi R, et al. Case–control study of human papillomavirus and
340		oropharyngeal Cancer. New England Journal of Medicine 2007; 356(19): 1944-56.
341	2.	Kreimer AR, Clifford GM, Boyle P, Franceschi S. Human papillomavirus types in head and neck
342		squamous cell carcinomas worldwide: A systematic review. Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers &
343		Prevention 2005 ; 14(2): 467.
344	3.	Saraiya M, Unger ER, Thompson TD, et al. US assessment of HPV types in cancers: implications
345		for current and 9-valent HPV vaccines. JNCI Journal of the National Cancer Institute 2015; 107(6):
346		djv086.
347	4.	Mehanna H, Beech T, Nicholson T, et al. Prevalence of human papillomavirus in oropharyngeal
348		and nonoropharyngeal head and neck cancersystematic review and meta-analysis of trends by
349		time and region. Head & neck 2013 ; 35(5): 747-55.
350	5.	Mehanna H, Franklin N, Compton N, et al. Geographic variation in human papillomavirus-related
351		oropharyngeal cancer: Data from 4 multinational randomized trials. Head & neck 2016; 38 Suppl
352		1: E1863-9.
353	6.	Paavonen J, Naud P, Salmerón J, et al. Efficacy of human papillomavirus (HPV)-16/18 AS04-
354		adjuvanted vaccine against cervical infection and precancer caused by oncogenic HPV types
355		(PATRICIA): final analysis of a double-blind, randomised study in young women. The Lancet 2009 ;

374(9686): 301-14. 356

FUTURE II Study Group. Quadrivalent vaccine against human papillomavirus to prevent high-7. 357 grade cervical lesions. New England Journal of Medicine 2007; 356(19): 1915-27. 358

18

- Garland SM, Hernandez-Avila M, Wheeler CM, et al. Quadrivalent vaccine against human
 papillomavirus to prevent anogenital diseases. New England Journal of Medicine 2007; 356(19):
 1928-43.
- Palefsky JM, Giuliano AR, Goldstone S, et al. HPV vaccine against anal HPV infection and anal
 intraepithelial neoplasia. New England Journal of Medicine **2011**; 365(17): 1576-85.
- Swedish KA, Factor SH, Goldstone SE. Prevention of recurrent high-grade anal neoplasia with
 quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccination of men who have sex with men: a nonconcurrent
 cohort study. Clinical Infectious Diseases 2012; 54(7): 891-8.
- Harper DM. Impact of vaccination with Cervarix[™] on subsequent HPV-16/18 infection and
 cervical disease in women 15–25 years of age. Gynecologic Oncology **2008**; 110(3): S11-S7.
- Kavanagh K, Pollock KGJ, Potts A, et al. Introduction and sustained high coverage of the HPV
 bivalent vaccine leads to a reduction in prevalence of HPV 16/18 and closely related HPV types.
 British Journal of Cancer 2014; 110(11): 2804-11.
- Wheeler CM, Castellsagué X, Garland SM, et al. Cross-protective efficacy of HPV-16/18 AS04adjuvanted vaccine against cervical infection and precancer caused by non-vaccine oncogenic
 HPV types: 4-year end-of-study analysis of the randomised, double-blind PATRICIA trial. The
 Lancet Oncology **2012**; 13(1): 100-10.
- Einstein MH, Baron M, Levin MJ, et al. Comparison of the immunogenicity of the human
 papillomavirus (HPV)-16/18 vaccine and the HPV-6/11/16/18 vaccine for oncogenic non-vaccine
 types HPV-31 and HPV-45 in healthy women aged 18–45 years. Human Vaccines 2011; 7(12):
 1359-73.
- Kavanagh K, Pollock KG, Cuschieri K, et al. Changes in the prevalence of human papillomavirus
 following a national bivalent human papillomavirus vaccination programme in Scotland: a 7-year
 cross-sectional study. Lancet Infect Dis **2017**; (12): 1293-302.

- Garland SM, Steben M, Sings HL, et al. Natural history of genital warts: analysis of the placebo
 arm of 2 randomized phase III trials of a quadrivalent human papillomavirus (Types 6, 11, 16, and
 18) vaccine. The Journal of Infectious Diseases 2009; 199(6): 805-14.
- 17. European Medicines Agency. Gardasil 9: EPAR Summary for the public. **2015**:1-4.
- 18. Public Health England. Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine coverage in England, 2008/09 to
 2013/14: A review of the full Six years of the three-dose schedule. London: Public Health
 England. 2015.
- 19. Drolet M, Bénard É, Boily M-C, et al. Population-level impact and herd effects following human
 papillomavirus vaccination programmes: a systematic review and meta-analysis. The Lancet
 Infectious diseases 2015; 15(5): 565-80.
- Mesher D, Panwar K, Thomas SL, Beddows S, Soldan K. Continuing reductions in HPV 16/18 in a
 population with high coverage of bivalent HPV vaccination in England: an ongoing cross-sectional
 study. BMJ Open **2016**; 6(2): e009915.
- Mesher D, Panwar K, Thomas SL, et al. The Impact of the National HPV Vaccination Program in
 England Using the Bivalent HPV Vaccine: Surveillance of Type-Specific HPV in Young Females,
 2010-2016. J Infect Dis **2018**; 218(6): 911-21.
- Pollock KG, Kavanagh K, Potts A, et al. Reduction of low- and high-grade cervical abnormalities
 associated with high uptake of the HPV bivalent vaccine in Scotland. Br J Cancer 2014; 111(9):
 1824-30.
- 402 23. Donken R, King AJ, Bogaards JA, Woestenberg PJ, Meijer C, de Melker HE. High Effectiveness of
 403 the Bivalent Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Against Incident and Persistent HPV Infections
 404 up to 6 Years After Vaccination in Young Dutch Women. J Infect Dis **2018**; 217(10): 1579-89.
- 405 24. Luostarinen T, Apter D, Dillner J, et al. Vaccination protects against invasive HPV-associated
 406 cancers. Int J Cancer **2018**; 142(10): 2186-7.

- 407 25. Herrero R, Quint W, Hildesheim A, et al. Reduced prevalence of oral human papillomavirus (HPV)
 408 4 years after bivalent HPV vaccination in a randomized clinical trial in Costa Rica. PLoS One **2013**;
 409 8(7): e68329.
- Chaturvedi AK, Graubard BI, Broutian T, et al. Effect of Prophylactic Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
 Vaccination on Oral HPV Infections Among Young Adults in the United States. J Clin Oncol 2018;
 36(3): 262-7.
- Kleter B, van Doorn LJ, Schrauwen L, et al. Development and clinical evaluation of a highly
 sensitive PCR-reverse hybridization line probe assay for detection and identification of
 anogenital human papillomavirus. Journal of clinical microbiology **1999**; 37(8): 2508-17.
- Kleter B, van Doorn L-J, ter Schegget J, et al. Novel short-fragment PCR assay for highly sensitive
 broad-spectrum detection of anogenital human papillomaviruses. The American Journal of
 Pathology **1998**; 153(6): 1731-9.
- van Alewijk D, Kleter B, Vent M, et al. A human papilloma virus testing algorithm comprising a
 combination of the L1 broad-spectrum SPF10 PCR assay and a novel E6 high-risk multiplex typespecific genotyping PCR assay. Journal of clinical microbiology **2013**; 51(4): 1171-8.
- 422 30. Castle PE. The evolving definition of carcinogenic human papillomavirus. Infectious Agents and
 423 Cancer **2009**; 4(1): 7.
- 424 31. Lehtinen M, Eriksson T, Natunen K, Damaso S, Bi D, Struyf F. HN03-03 efficacy of AS04-425 adjuvanted HPV-16/18 vaccine in reducing oropharyngeal HPV infections in adolescent girls-426 results from a community-randomized trial. EUROGIN. Amsterdam, **2017**.
- Sonawane K, Suk R, Chiao EY, et al. Oral human papillomavirus infection: differences in
 prevalence between sexes and concordance with genital human papillomavirus infection,
 NHANES 2011 to 2014. Ann Intern Med **2017**; 167(10): 714-24.

- 430 33. Cameron RL, Kavanagh K, Pan J, et al. Human papillomavirus prevalence and herd immunity after
 431 introduction of vaccination program, Scotland, 2009-2013. Emerging infectious diseases 2016;
 432 22(1): 56-64.
- 433 34. England PH. Sexually transmitted infections and chlamydia screening in England, 2016: Public
 434 Health England, 2017 9 June 2017.
- 435 35. Ernster JA, Sciotto CG, O'Brien MM, Robinson LJ, Willson T. Prevalence of oncogenic human
 436 papillomavirus 16 and 18 in the palatine tonsils of the general adult population. Arch Otolaryngol
 437 2009; 135(6): 554-7.
- 438 36. Klingenberg B, Hafkamp HC, Haesevoets A, et al. p16INK4A overexpression is frequently detected
- 439 in tumour free tonsil tissue without association with HPV. Histopathology **2010**; 56(7): 957-67.
- Bekker JB, Evans MF, Threlkeld KJ, Rajendran V, Adamson CS, Cooper K. Screening for HPV in
 clinically benign tonsillectomy specimens. Modern Pathol **2012**; 25: 305-.
- Taberna M, Mena M, Pavon MA, Alemany L, Gillison ML, Mesia R. Human papillomavirus related
 oropharyngeal cancer. Annals of oncology : official journal of the European Society for Medical
- 444 Oncology **2017**; 28(10): 2386-98.

447 Tables

- **Table 1:** Description of boys and girls ages 12-24 in study population, with data on girls by HPV
- 449 vaccination history.

		Girls	Boys			
	Received HPV Vaccine		P-value		P-value	
			Unvaccinated		Boys vs	
	No	Yes	vs vaccinated	Number (%)	vaccinated	
Participant Characteristic	(n = 54)	(n = 54) $(n = 189)$		girls (n=69)		
Age, in years			0.01		0.02	
12-15	16 (29.6%)	41 (21.7%)		21 (30.4%)		
16-19	13 (24.1%)	92 (48.7%)		20 (29.0%)		
20-24	25 (46.3%)	56 (29.6%)		28 (40.6%)		
Ethnicity			0.03		0.38	
White	41 (75.9%)	171 (90.5%)		59 (85.5%)		
Black or Black British Mixed	2 (3.7%)	4 (2.1%)		5 (7.3%)		
Asian or British Asian	5 (9.3%)	5 (2.7%)		2 (2.9%)		
Mixed or Other Ethnic Group	6 (11.1%)	9 (4.8%)		3 (4.4%)		
Centre Enrolled			0.35		0.78	
Worcester Royal Hospital	1 (1.9%)	6 (3.2%)		2 (2.9%)		
University Hospital Coventry and	27 (50,0%)	66 (34 0%)				
Warwickshire	27 (30.0%)	00 (34.970)		31 (44.9%)		
University Hospital Birmingham	13 (24.1%)	63 (33.3%)		20 (29.0%)		
New Cross Hospital Wolverhampton	2 (3.7%)	4 (2.1%)		1 (1.5%)		
Kidderminister General Hospital	1 (1.8%)	10 (5.3%)		4 (5.8%)		
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital	10 (18.5%)	40 (21.2%)		11 (15.9%)		

Year enrolled			0.60		0.16				
2013	17 (31.5%)	66 (34.9%)		23 (33.3%)					
2014	23 (42.6%)	86 (45.5%)		25 (36.2%)					
2015	14 (25.9%)	37 (19.6%)		21 (30.4%)					
SURVEY AMONG THOSE ≥16 YEARS ONLY									
Age at First Sex, in years mean (SD)	16.2 (1.7)	15.9 (1.5)	0.24	16.2 (1.3)	0.12				
Ever had Sex			0.31		0.57				
No	1 (2.9%)	14 (10.3%)		3 (6.5%)					
Yes	34 (97.1%)	122 (89.7%)		43 (93.5%)					
Ever had Oral Sex			0.08		0.09				
No	2 (6.5%)	25 (19.7%)		3 (7.1%)					
Yes	29 (93.5%)	102 (80.3%)		39 (92.9%)					
Number of oral sex partners in			0.09		0.02				
lifetime			0.09		0.02				
0	3 (10.7%)	26 (21.1%)		7 (46.7%)					
1	8 (28.6%)	24 (19.5%)		1 (6.7%)					
2-5	16 (57.1%)	51 (41.5%)		2 (13.3%)					
6 or more	1 (3.6%)	22 (17.9%)		5 (33.3%)					

Table 2: Difference in HPV prevalence among 69 unvaccinated boys, 189 girls vaccinated with
any HPV vaccine and 54 unvaccinated girls aged 12-24 years old at enrollment, by sample type
and among select HPV types.

	Un-						
		va	vaccinated		Boys vs.	Boys vs.	
	Gir	rls	VS	Boys	vaccinated	non-	
		va	vaccinated girls		girls	vaccinateu	
						giris	
	Not Vaccinated	Yes Vaccinated ^a					
HPV Type and Sample Type	(N = 54)	$(N = 189^{b})$	P-value	(N=69)	P-value	P-value	
HPV 16							
Oropharyngeal (overall)	3 (5.6%)	1 (0.5%)	0.04	0 (0%)	>0.99	0.08	
Oral Rinse	1 (1.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0.22	0 (0%)		0.44	
Oral Brush (either sample)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)		0 (0%)			
Tonsil	3 (5.6%)	1 (0.5%)	0.04	0 (0%)	>0.99	0.08	
HPV 16 or 18							
Oropharyngeal (overall)	3 (5.6%)	2 (1.1%)	0.07	0 (0%)	>0.99	0.08	
Oral Rinse	1 (1.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0.22	0 (0%)		0.44	
Oral Brush (either sample)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.5%)	>0.99	0 (0%)	>0.99		
Tonsil	3 (5.6%)	1 (0.5%)	0.04	0 (0%)	>0.99	0.08	
HPV 31 or 33 or 45							
Oropharyngeal (overall)	1 (1.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0.22	1 (1.5%)	0.27	>0.99	
Oral Rinse	1 (1.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0.22	0 (0%)		0.44	
Oral Brush (either sample)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)		1 (1.5%)	0.27	>0.99	
Tonsil	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)		0 (0%)			
Any Oncogenic Type							

Oropharyngeal (overall)	4 (7.4%)	14 (7.4%)	>0.99	2 (2.9%)	0.25	0.40
Oral Rinse	2 (3.7%)	12 (6.4%)	0.74	1 (1.5%)	0.20	0.58
Oral Brush (either sample)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.1%)	>0.99	1 (1.5%)	>0.99	>0.99
Tonsil	3 (5.6%)	1 (0.5%)	0.04	0 (0%)	>0.99	0.08
Any type of HPV						
Oropharyngeal (overall)	11 (20.4%)	35 (18.5%)	0.76	12 (17.4%)	0.84	0.67
Oral Rinse	8 (14.8%)	28 (14.8%)	>0.99	9 (13.2%)	0.72	0.77
Oral Brush (either sample)	1 (1.9%)	8 (4.2%)	0.69	3 (4.4%)	>0.99	0.63
Tonsil	3 (5.6%)	2 (1.1%)	0.07	1 (1.5%)	>0.99	0.32
1						

⁴⁵⁸ ^aHPV16 was detected in the tonsil sample of 1 person who was vaccinated with AS04-⁴⁵⁹ HPV16/18v (with 3 doses), reported having 8 lifetime oral sex partners, current smoker, and was ⁴⁶⁰ enrolled in 2015 when she was 20 years old. Only 1 HPV18 infection was detected in any oral ⁴⁶¹ sample, it was in a AS04-HPV16/18v vaccinated participant who received all 3 doses, reported ⁴⁶² never performing oral sex or any other sexual activity, never smoker, and was enrolled in 2013 at ⁴⁶³ age of 17.

⁴⁶⁴ ^bTwo vaccinated subjects did not have tonsil samples (tonsillar data for vaccinated subjects ⁴⁶⁵ shown is among 187 subjects). Three vaccinated subjects and one unvaccinated subject did not ⁴⁶⁶ have oral rinse samples (oral rinse data for vaccinated and unvaccinated subjects shown is 186 ⁴⁶⁷ and 53, respectively).

468

470 Figures

Figure 1: Oropharyngeal HPV prevalence in unvaccinated girls, vaccinated girls, and boys aged
12-14 years by vaccination status and HPV type. P values represent comparisons to unvaccinated
girls using Pearson's chi-squared tests or Fisher's Exact test.

474

Figure 2: Oropharyngeal HPV prevalence in males 12-24 years of age and males over 24 years
old and by HPV type. P values represent comparisons to males 12-24 years old using Pearson's
chi-squared tests or Fisher's Exact test.