

CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING IN KUMASI, GHANA



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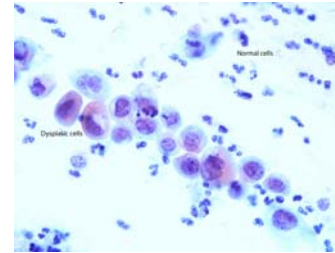
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International Healthcare Volunteers

- Established in 2001
- Not-for-profit organization
- Provides healthcare to women in underserved areas
- Provides continuing medical education to healthcare professionals in these areas

Cervical Cancer Screening in the US

- Pap smear every 2 years starting at age 21
- Reflex HPV testing for ASC-US
 - colposcopy if high-risk HPV +
- Automatic colposcopy for ASC-H, LSIL, or HSIL

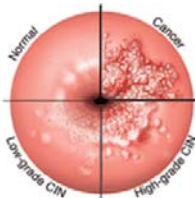


2011 Screening Data Kumasi, Ghana

- 3 medical professionals trained in VIA and colposcopy
- 11 women screened with VIA, HPV assay
- 1 colposcopy performed

Cervical Cancer

- Worldwide, third most common cancer in women
- Almost always caused by high-risk Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infections
 - HPV types 16 and 18 considered high-risk
 - Gardasil® vaccine protects against 6, 11, 16, and 18
- Develops very slowly
- Early cervical cancer is usually asymptomatic
- Dysplasia, precancerous cells, can be detected by a pap smear and is treatable



Cervical Cancer Screening in Ghana

- Initiated in 2008
- Visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA)
- HPV assay if available
- Colposcopy for + VIA (acetowhite changes)



HPV Assay – 2009-2010 Results

- 20 of 132 specimens (15.2%) were high-risk HPV +
- 10 of the 20 were probed for HPV types 16 and 18
 - 1 was HPV 16 +
 - 0 were HPV 18 +

Colposcopy

- Signs of angiogenesis – acetowhite changes, hairpin vessels, punctation



Old colposcope at KNUST Hospital



Newer colposcope donated by IHCV in 2011

Ghana and Cervical Cancer

- 6.57 million women ages 15 years and older at risk of developing cervical cancer
- 1st most frequent cancer among women in Ghana
- Every year 3038 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 2006 (2/3 of those diagnosed) die from the disease
- In Western Africa, about 21.5% of women in the general population are estimated to harbor cervical HPV infection at a given time (1)

Summary

- Cervical cancer is a preventable disease
- Sustainable screening programs are necessary in Ghana and other developing countries
- Types of high-risk HPV may vary worldwide
- Knowledge of prevalent HPV types will allow for development of effective vaccines

References and Thanks

1. WHO/ICO Information Centre on HPV and Cervical Cancer (HPV Information Centre). Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers in Ghana. Summary Report 2010. [Date accessed]. Available at www.who.int/hpvcentre

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