

Gender bias and impact of HPV-related disease awareness on vaccine uptake among health and medical sciences undergraduates

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Malaysia's human papilloma virus (HPV) immunization programme targets secondary school-aged females only although the vaccine is highly effective in preventing both male and female genital and oropharyngeal cancers. This study aims to explore the perception of HPV vaccine among health and medical sciences students and to identify differences based on gender and knowledge regarding HPV infection. **Methods:** A survey of 356 medical, biomedical science and pharmacology undergraduates was conducted. The 16-item questionnaire explored the perception and knowledge of HPV infection and vaccination. Chi-squared test was used to compare responses between groups. **Results:** Fifty-eight percent (58%) of female students and 9.3% of male students had been vaccinated against HPV. Fewer male students had heard of the HPV vaccine (82.9% vs. 68.4%, $p = 0.004$). Vaccination rates were similar among medical and non-medical students (41.2% vs. 46.9%, $p > 0.05$) although medical students demonstrated better knowledge about HPV infection. Unvaccinated male students who were aware of the HPV diseases in men were more willing to be vaccinated compared to those who were unaware (100% vs. 81.5%, $p = 0.013$). Among unvaccinated females, awareness of HPV diseases was not associated with willingness to be vaccinated (11% vs. 22%, $p = 0.18$), suggesting that there may be other factors for their decision. **Conclusions:** Current national HPV immunization programme that does not target males has led to remarkably low rate of HPV vaccination in male students. Improving HPV knowledge could increase vaccine uptake among male students.

Laparoscopic uterine niche repair with a successful fertility outcome

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Niche, synonymously known as caesarean scar defect (CSD) or isthmocele, is a late complication from prior caesarean section with the formation of a reservoir at the anterior uterine wall. 'Niche' is a classical sonographic description of hypoechoic area within the lower uterine myometrium which describes a discontinuity of the myometrium. Diagnostic modalities such as sonography, hysterosalpingography and hysteroscopy have been compared in its efficacy to diagnose CSD. Corrective measures of CSD with hysteroscopy or laparoscopic surgery is debatable. Some showed that hysteroscopic repair corrects the scar however it did not strengthen the uterine wall whereas laparoscopic surgery potentially increases the uterine wall endurance. Our patient had undergone laparoscopic repair as she is still in the childbearing age and we do believe that it could potentially increase her uterine wall endurance for subsequent pregnancies. **Case Description:** We are reporting a rare case of CSD in Malaysia via sonographic, MRI findings and laparoscopic repair. After 11 years of subfertility, our patient conceived via IVF and had a successful delivery by caesarean section. **Discussion:** As CSD is not regarded as a common pathology for patients presenting with menorrhagia and infertility, it could potentially be missed or overlooked on routine assessment. Hence, we hope by presenting this case we can raise awareness of CSD as a potential pathology to look for in menorrhagia and infertility cases especially in those patients who have had previous surgery or instrumentation.