

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE TOWARD HUMAN
PAPILLOMA VIRUS INFECTION AND VACCINATION AMONG
UITM STUDENTS**

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ABSTRACT

Background: *Human Papilloma Virus* (HPV) is a sexually transmitted infection that can cause genital warts and cancers especially cervical cancer. The HPV vaccination is given as the primary prevention. The administration of HPV vaccine is the most effective vaccination in the adolescent girl especially before they have sexual activity.

Aim: This study was conducted to measure the level of knowledge on HPV infection and vaccination among students in UiTM, to identify the sources of information used by students to get the HPV information, to determine the factors associated with their knowledge, attitudes and practice toward HPV vaccination, and to know the current practice of HPV vaccination among students. **Method:** This cross-sectional study was

conducted in UiTM Puncak Alam campus by using 40-item self-administered questionnaire. The collected data were analyzed using SPSS 20.0 software. **Results:**

The level of knowledge among respondents was fairly knowledgeable with median total score of 7 and inter-quartile range of 6. Most of the respondents used internet (25.2%) and school education (25.2%) to get the HPV information. The associated factor was found to be between level of knowledge and faculty. **Conclusion:** Overall, the level of knowledge on HPV infection and vaccination among UiTM Puncak Alam campus was fairly knowledgeable. Thus, efforts to improve knowledge and awareness should be prioritised to increase the uptake of HPV vaccination programme and hence reduce the morbidity and mortality from the consequence of HPV infection including cervical carcinoma.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a sexually transmitted infection that can cause genital warts and cancer especially cervical cancer. In USA, it was estimated that every year, about 6.2 million people infected by HPV (Huey, Clark, Kluhsman, & Lengerich, 2009). Cervical cancer can lead to cancer-related death among women in most developing countries. In 9.1% of all cancers among Peninsular Malaysian women, the cervical cancer is reported as number three of the most common cancer with the majority is being diagnosed already in the late stages of diseases. It was estimated that in developing countries, about 80% and above of cervical cancer patients were dying.

This HPV virus potentially can cause warts. More than 100 types of HPV have been recognized which mostly are harmless, but about 30 types of HPV can cause cancer. The HPV virus affects genital and can be transmitted via sexual contact with the infected partner. Low-risk HPV leads to genital warts while high-risk HPV leads to cancers of cervix, vagina, vulva, and anus in women. In men, it can cause anus and penis cancers. HPV is a small double stranded DNA of non-enveloped virus with 55nm in size. Compare to other developed countries, Malaysia has higher overall incidence of cervical cancer which is the second most common cancer among