

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF HPV VACCINATION
AMONG PHARMACY STUDENTS IN UITM PUNCAK ALAM**

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the
Degree in **Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)**

BACHELOR OF PHARMACY

2014

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise to Allah Almighty because of His permission this thesis can be completed within the time given. First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to those who give contribution in completing my thesis. First of all, I am really grateful to my supervisor, Mr. Muhammad Anwar Nawab Khan, lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA, for his ideas, guidance and continuous support during the completion of this study. My special thanks especially to all the students who participated in this research for the willingness in spending their valuable time to complete the survey form. This study might not be a success without their participation. Besides, I also would like to thank my friends for their help and support throughout the research period. Last but not least, my deepest gratitude to my family for their continual encouragement and support throughout my life.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TITLE PAGE	
APPROVAL SHEET	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	vii
ABSTRACT	ix
CHAPTER ONE (INTRODUCTION)	
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	5
1.3 Objectives	5
1.4 Hypothesis	5
1.5 Research Questions	6
1.6 Significance of the Study	6
1.7 Limitation of the Study	6
CHAPTER TWO (LITERATURE REVIEW)	
2.1 Background	
2.1.1 Definition of HPV	7
2.2 Epidemiology	7
2.3 Types of HPV	11
2.4 Risk Factor	
2.4.1 Sexual intercourse	12
2.4.2 Number of sexual partners	13
2.4.3 Age	14
2.4.4 Circumcision	14
2.4.5 Immunocompromised	15
2.5 Management of HPV	
2.5.1 Medication	16
2.5.2 Surgical ablation	17
2.5.3 HPV vaccine	
2.5.3.1 Types of HPV vaccine	18
2.5.3.2 Vaccination schedule	20
2.5.3.3 Vaccine efficacy and effectiveness	22
2.5.3.4 Vaccine Safety	22

ABSTRACT

Human papilloma virus (HPV) infection is the common cause of cervical cancer. This is one of the sexually transmitted infections. HPV vaccines are already available which can be administered as prevention towards cervical cancer. The purpose of this study is to assess undergraduate pharmacy student in UiTM Puncak Alam on their knowledge towards HPV vaccination and to determine the association of independent variables with the knowledge and awareness towards HPV vaccination. A cross sectional study by using convenience sampling was conducted among undergraduate's students from Faculty of Pharmacy. The response rate was 82% which means out of 300 questionnaires being distributed, 246 were returned. The questionnaire used for this study was adapted from Camille C Ragin et al. (2009), Guducu et al. (2012), Raika Durusoy et al. (2010) and Kristen L.O'Flarity (2012). This questionnaire consists of 25 items from three sections; section A for demographic profile, section B for knowledge on HPV vaccination and section C for awareness of HPV vaccination. The data were analyzed by using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 19 and the Microsoft Excel. Chi-Square test was used to determine the significant association between the tested parameters with p value less than 0.05. Some of the items in questionnaire were significantly associated with demographic profiles' items which include gender, age, cGPA, year of study and marital status. The p value was less than 0.05. Their overall score on knowledge of HPV vaccination was 6, classified as having moderate level of knowledge.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Papillomavirus is the organism that can cause inflammation and also changes in the skin. Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) also called as genital human papillomavirus, which is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) (CDC, 2013). It is passed through sexual contact and skin to skin contact (FDA, 2013). Sexual intercourse is the risk factor of HPV infection (CDC, 2013). There are certain parts of the body that can be affected by this virus which are the lining of the mouth and throat, vulva, cervix, vagina and anus (UK, 2013).

Currently, there are one hundred and fifty (150) types of HPV discovered and forty (40) of them commonly transmitted through sexual contact. HPV are classified according to the nucleotide sequence homology. Besides, HPV can be classified into high risk and low risk of causing cancer (Chengquan Zhao et al., 2012). HPV types 16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59 and 66 are considered as high risk which can lead to cervical cancer. While, HPV types 6, 11, 30, 51 and 54 are categorized as low risk which can