Factors influencing HPV vaccine acceptability among young female college students in Thailand

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Abstract

Objectives: To determine knowledge of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer, beliefs toward HPV cervical cancer and vaccination, acceptance of the HPV vaccine, and to identify independent predictors associated with the acceptance of the HPV vaccine among young women in upper northern Thailand.

Methods: A convenience sample of young women aged 18–24 years (n = 747) recruited from universities/colleges located in upper northern Thailand. An online questionnaire was carried out to obtain demographics, HPV and cervical cancer-related health characteristics, as well as knowledge and beliefs toward HPV and cervical cancer. Logistic regression analysis was used to determine significant independent predictors of HPV vaccine acceptability.

Results: Knowledge about HPV and cervical cancer was moderate. The mean total knowledge score was 7.5 ± 3.8. HPV vaccine acceptability was significantly associated with having received a recommendation for vaccination (OR 2.12; 95% CI 1.22-3.68), perceived susceptibility to disease (OR 1.37; 95% CI 1.22-1.52), perceived benefits of vaccination (OR 1.33; 95% CI 1.19-1.49), and perceived seriousness of disease (OR 0.90; 95% CI 0.81-1.00).

Conclusion: Understanding variables associated with HPV vaccine acceptability from this study may guide immunization initiatives in increasing the uptake rate of HPV vaccine among young women.

Biography

Dr. Phanida Juntasopeepun has completed her PhD in nursing from University of Illinois Chicago in 2004. She was a research fellow at Curtin University, Australia. Currently, she serves as an Assistant Dean for Global and Research Affairs and Vice Director of World Health Collaborating Center for Nursing and Midwifery Development at the Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University, Thailand.