Parental Refusal of the HPV Vaccine

Abstract

Background

The purpose of this study was to explore reasons why parents may refuse administration of the human papillomavirus (HPV)vaccine to their children. The literature suggests there are several reasons parents chose to defer this vaccine. This study is a follow up from the pilot study and will contribute to our understanding of why parents may refuse administration of the vaccine.

Method

This mixed- methods study took place in multiple pediatric practice settings. After a health visit in which the vaccine was refused, a survey was provided to the parent in a private room. The survey was kept confidential and anonymous.

Results

There were 72 surveys completed. Demographic data were reported. Data were analyzed for descriptive statistics and themes from open ended questions. The reasons why parents refused the vaccine was because they believed it was too new (58%) or required further research (50%).

Discussion

This was a follow up study and contained a larger sample then the pilot. The results seem to be improving and trending downward, but there is more work to do for health providers. Nurse practitioners are in an excellent position to dispel myths and clarify information about HPV vaccination. The data are useful in communication and best practices to promote healthy children.