TITLE

RANDOMIZED TRIAL OF HPV VACCINATION FOR THE CONTROL OF HPV-RELATED DISEASES IN HIV- POSITIVE POPULATIONS OF NIGERIA

AUTHOR

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AIM

HIV+ women are at increased risk of acquisition and persistence of HPV leading on to the development of cervical cancer and other genital disease. We have conducted a study (called HARP) evaluating the performance of cervical cancer screening strategies among 120 HIV+ women in Kano state and Abuja area of Nigeria, which included HPV screening.

BACKGROUND AND METHOD

We have found a huge burden of cervical pre-cancer lesions (20% in Kano, 5% on Abuja) and of high-risk HPV infection (>70% in Kano, 55% in Abuja). We have recorded a good performance of HPV testing alone or in combination with cytology to detect these lesions. We would like to build upon this rich data source and the successful implementation of this study through the development of a clinical trial platform to develop the next phase of HARP, which

Center on the role of HPV control through screening and vaccination We propose to develop a proposal for a randomized trial of HPV vaccination among HIV+ women to prevent cervical cancer lesions.

RESULT

There is currently no data on the efficacy of an HPV vaccine among HIV+ women, although a few trials have shown the safety and immunogenicity of the bivalent HPV vaccine in HIV+ populations, including one trial among Kano women. The recent announcement by the Kano ministry of health of the introduction of HPV vaccination countrywide offers the opportunity to explore the role of HPV vaccination in various sub groups.

The proposed study, in preparation of the vaccine trial, will assess the potential effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of HPV vaccination embedded in an HPV screening programme in reducing the incidence of HPV-related infection and disease (CIN, ano-genital warts) in the target populations.

CONCLUSSION

It will investigate the response to vaccination depending on HIV related factors (plasma viral load/CD4 count/antiretroviral therapy status) and HPV related factors (current infection as determined by presence of HPV in the genital tract, or prior exposure as determined by HPV serology) on various trial outcomes (histological, cytological and virological). Finally, it will investigate the potential acceptability of such trial.