



Title	HPV Vaccination for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer in Belgium: Health Technology Assessment
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Aim

To provide an updated assessment of current (October 2007) human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines, with the long-term aim to prevent cervical cancer.

Conclusions and results

HPV vaccination offers partial protection for cervical cancer and can help reduce the number of cervical cases in the future, provided that cervical cancer screening remains at least at current levels. A reduction in screening coverage, due to a false sense of protection by vaccination, might jeopardize any gains due to vaccination and could lead to more cervical cancer cases in the future.

Recommendations

Initially, keep screening at least at current levels, and try to organize screening better. Additionally, a vaccination program for girls at ages preceding sexual initiation (eg, 12 years of age) might be considered. Better organization of screening in Belgium might partly free the budget to cover this vaccination program.

Methods

Economic modeling, cost-effectiveness literature, and literature and information from regulatory authorities were used to assess efficacy and safety.

Further research/reviews required

None.