

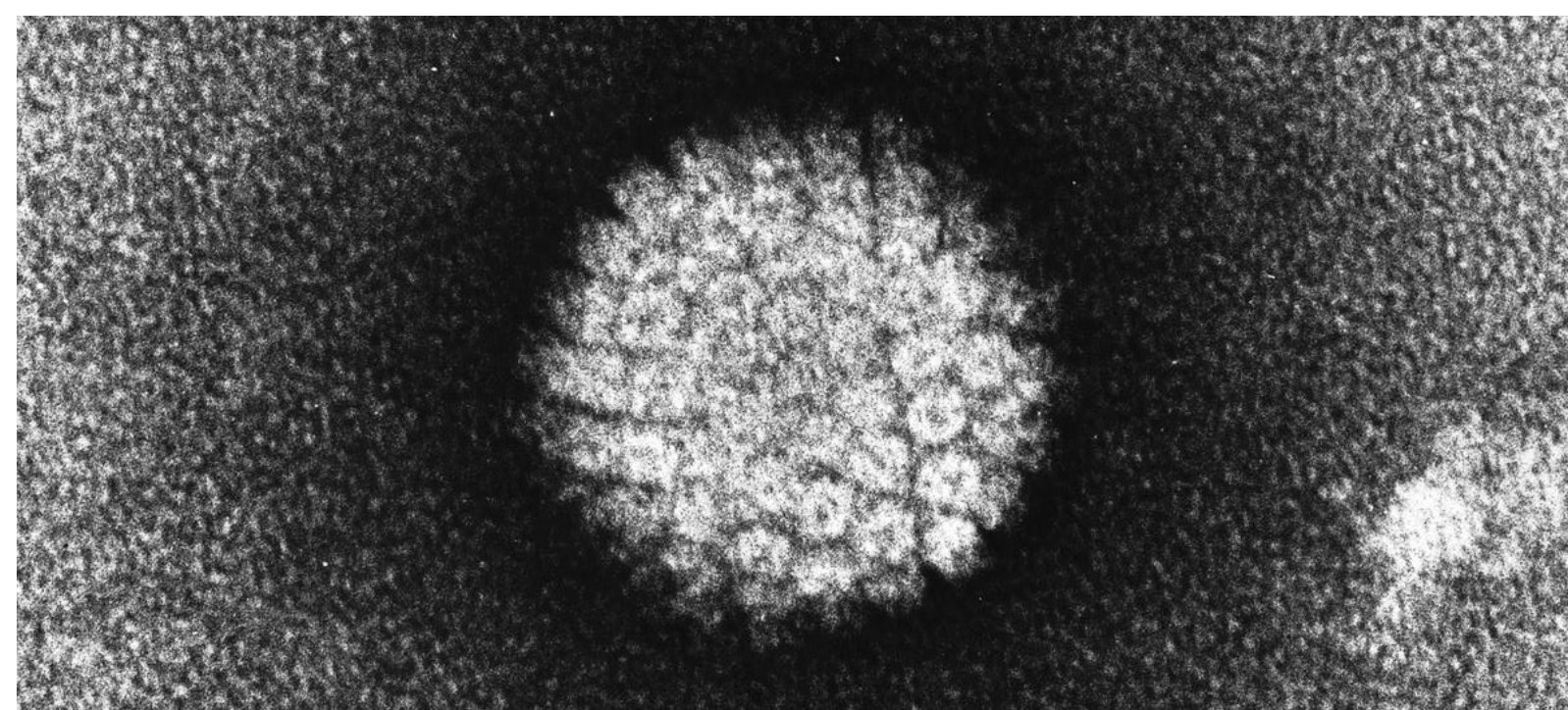
Practice Patterns of Primary Care Physicians Regarding HPV Vaccination Counseling and Head and Neck Cancer: A Survey Based Study

James M. Taylor¹, Dipan Desai², Angela Mazul³, Eunice Yim², Douglas Farquhar², Anthony Viera¹, Jose P. Zevallos²

¹ Department of Health Care & Prevention, Gillings School of Global Public Health, ² Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, School of Medicine, ³ Department of Epidemiology, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Introduction

- Head and neck squamous cell carcinomas (HNSCC) are the sixth most common cancer worldwide.
- Although traditionally associated with tobacco and alcohol use, recently, 60-70% of all oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinomas (OPSCC) are attributed to HPV.
- Due to the substantial differences between patients with HPV-positive and HPV-negative OPSCC, it is imperative that primary care physicians are knowledgeable about the rapidly changing epidemiology, clinical characteristics and outcomes associated with HPV-driven HNC in order to appropriately refer high-risk patients.



Objective

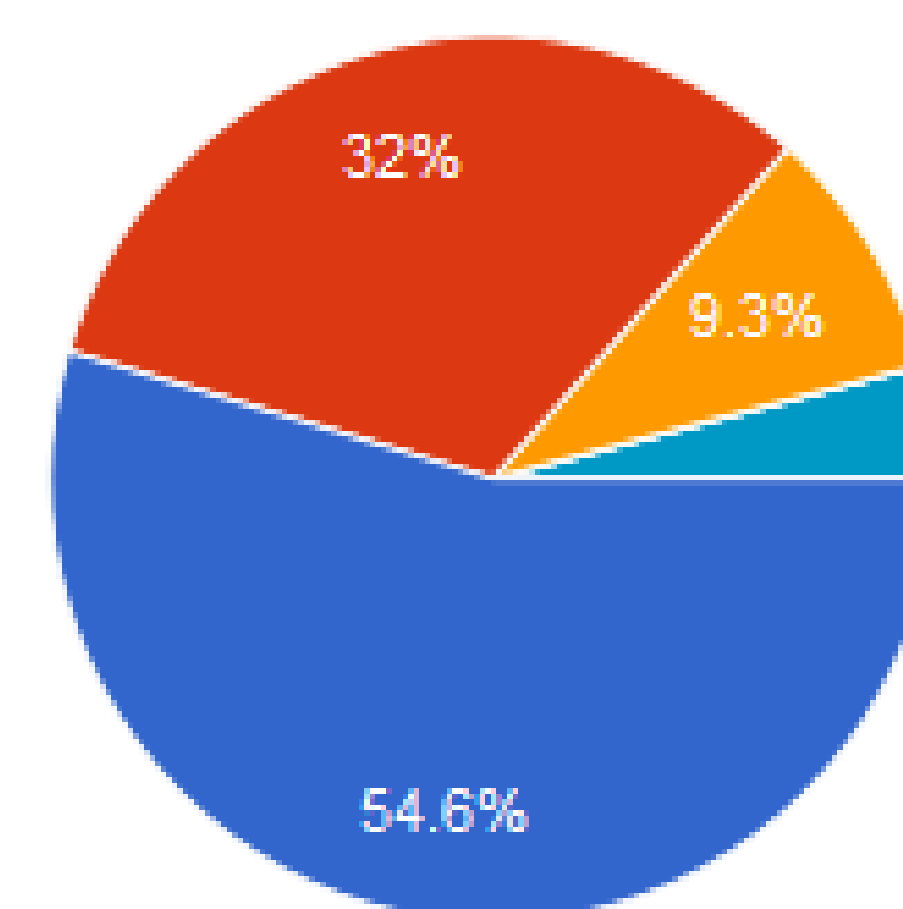
- To gain insight into the knowledge and practice patterns of primary care providers with respect to HPV and OPSCC
- To assess the attitudes and beliefs of primary care providers on the HPV vaccination and OPSCC

Methods

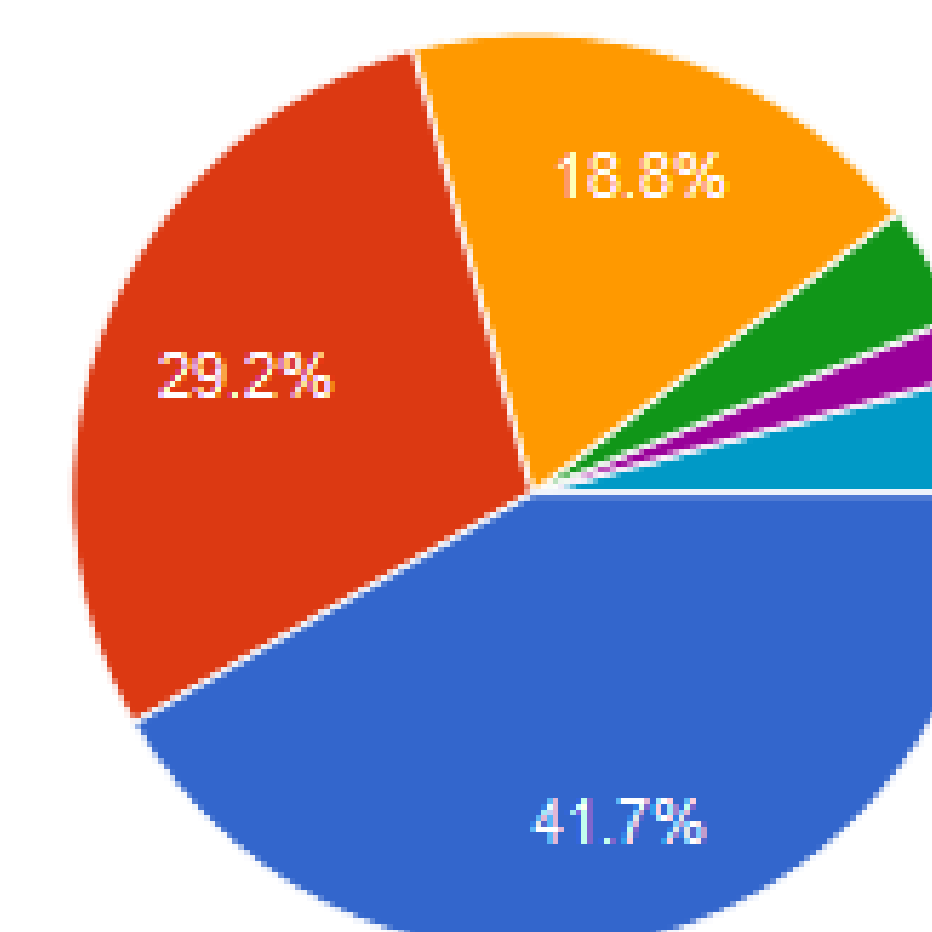
- A 29-question survey was developed by a multidisciplinary team of specialists including Head and Neck Surgeons, Radiation Oncologists, and Family Medicine Physicians
- The survey was made available online and distributed by email to Primary Care Providers (PCPs) at two large tertiary care academic medical centers in North Carolina
- For the purpose of this study, Primary Care Providers included pediatricians, general internal medicine physicians and family medicine physicians

Results

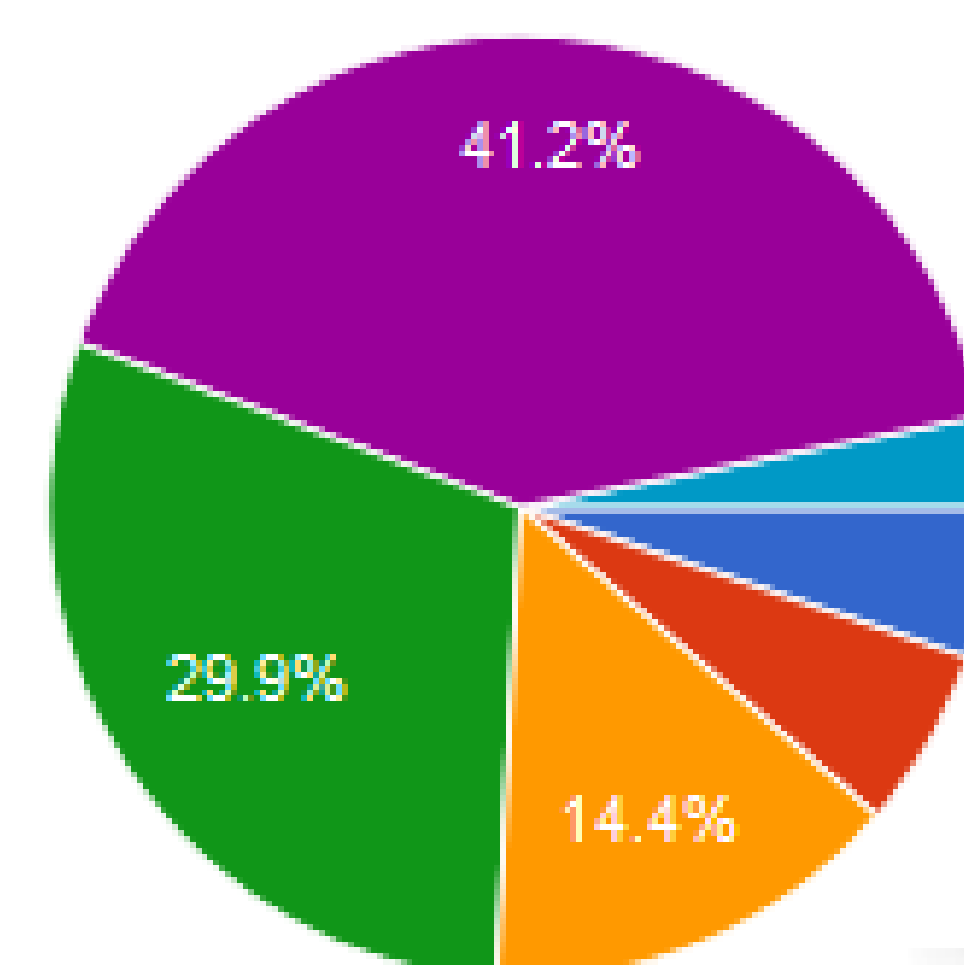
How often do you recommend the HPV vaccination to eligible female patients?



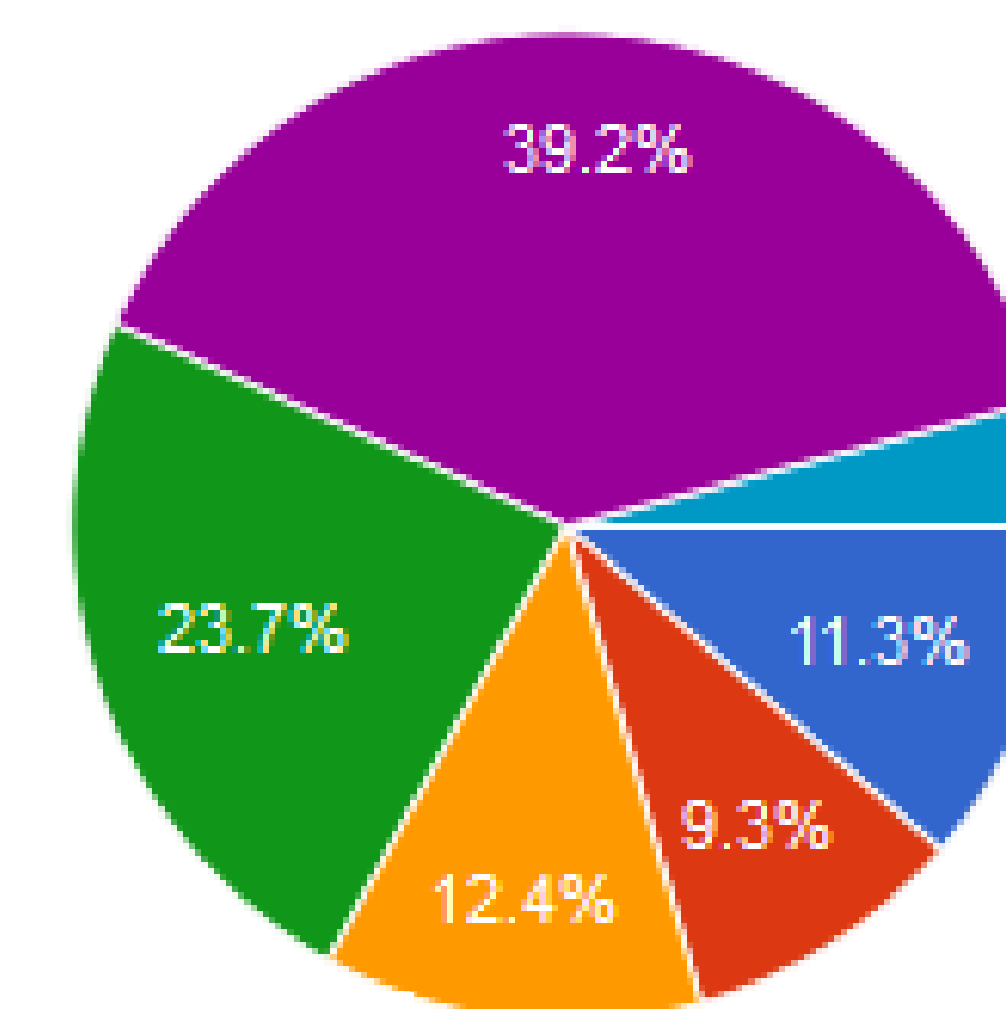
How often do you recommend the HPV vaccination to eligible Male patients?



When you discuss the benefits of the HPV vaccination with female patients, how often do you discuss protection from head and neck cancer as a potential benefit?



When you discuss the benefits of the HPV vaccination with male patients, how often do you discuss protection from head and neck cancer as a potential benefit?



Survey Response Demographics

Provider Characteristics	Respondents, % (n=95)
Sex	
Male	33.0
Female	67.0
Practice Time (years)	
Resident/Fellow	41.0
1-10	26.3
11-20	14.8
>20	17.9
Practice Setting	
Academic	85.3
Clinic or Public Hospital	10.5
Other	4.2
Primary Discipline	
Internal Medicine	23.4
Pediatrics	26.6
Family Medicine	48.9
Other	1.1

Conclusions

- PCPs more frequently recommend the HPV vaccination for women compared to men.
- Additionally, the majority of PCPs reported they “never” or “seldom” discuss a protective benefit of the HPV vaccine for OPSCC.
- New efforts to increase vaccination among males are needed.

Acknowledgements

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