

**Poster 13****Title: Human papillomavirus vaccination in Portugal, October 2008 to June 2014****Authors:** Fernandes T.<sup>1</sup>; Cortez J.<sup>1</sup>; Calé E.<sup>1</sup>; Valente P.<sup>1</sup>; Leça A.<sup>1</sup>; Castelão M.I.<sup>1</sup>; Silva A.<sup>1</sup>; Freitas M.G.<sup>1</sup>**Institutions:** <sup>1</sup>Direção-Geral da Saúde (Directorate-General of Health), Lisbon, Portugal**[Description]****Introduction**

Estimates of 2012 for Portugal indicate that every year 720 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 390 die from the disease. Cervical cancer in Portugal ranks as the 7th most frequent cancer among women in general and the 2nd most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age<sup>1</sup>.

Due to the high burden, in October 2008 the quadrivalent vaccine was introduced into the National Vaccination Programme (NVP) in Portugal, for 13 years old girls born after 1995 in a 3 doses schedule (0,2,6 months). From 2009 to 2011 a national vaccination campaign ran in healthcare centers to include 17 year-old girls (born between 1992 and 1994).

**HPV vaccination coverage**

Annually an evaluation of the Portuguese NVP performance is done and HPV vaccination coverage is measured through the percentage of young girls with 1, 2 and 3 doses in all the cohorts vaccinated under the umbrella of NVP since 2008 and also those included in the vaccination campaign of 2009 to 2011.

By June 2014, national vaccine coverage for the three-dose regimen varied between 90.3% and 94.9% in the cohorts born between 1995 and 1999. The set target of 85% for 3 doses was achieved in all cohorts, except for the one that started the vaccination in 2013 (born in 2000) as approximately half of the girls (born after July 1, 2000) did not have at least 6 months to complete the recommended schedule.

The 85% target for the 3 dose regimen was also achieved in all cohorts vaccinated in the campaign despite being older ( $\geq 17$  years of age).

In spite of some regional differences, four of the five Regional Health Administrations (RHA) have 90% coverage or more for 3 doses of the vaccine in the first cohort of young girls routinely vaccinated (born in 1995). Four of the five RHA have 80% coverage or more for 3 doses of the vaccine in the first cohort of young girls vaccinated in the campaign (born in 1992).

**Conclusion**

HPV vaccination, in our country, has reached a remarkable and sustainable high coverage in all the target cohorts, which is mainly due to the good organization of local vaccination services and their articulation with local education services. Portugal is the country which has one of the highest coverage for 3 doses of HPV vaccine. HPV vaccination effort is fully justified once important health gains in the medium/long term are expected. In addition to cervical cancer, vaccines against HPV infections will probably also impact other cancers caused by HPV, such as cancers of the vulva and vagina. In the near future, these other HPV related cancers should also be included in assessing the potential impact of HPV vaccination, since these are associated with high morbidity and financial burden and are not targeted by screening.

Vaccination with the HPV vaccine is one of the most powerful strategies to prevent cervical cancer and other HPV associated infections, however in Portugal it is integrated in a broader strategy at national level that also includes promotion of healthy sexual behavior and cancer screening.

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