



EPIDEMIOLOGY

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) INFECTION AND RELATED KNOWLEDGE AMONG MALES IN TAIWAN: A COMPARISON BETWEEN HETEROSEXUAL MALES AND MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN (MSM)

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Introduction: Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection affects both men and women, causing warts, premalignancies, and cervical, anal, penile and oropharyngeal cancers. The prevalence of HPV infection among males varies by population. HPV is also associated with inflammatory skin diseases, such as psoriasis and atopic dermatitis.

Objective: to assess the impact of HPV infection among males in Taiwan; (1) estimate the prevalence of type-specific oral and penile HPV infections among heterosexual males; (2) identify the factors associated with HPV prevalence, including risk behaviors and underlying skin diseases.

Methods: 103 male patients were recruited from a dermatology clinic in National Cheng Kung University Hospital in 2016. HPV screening by polymerase chain reaction was performed at the oral and penile sites. A 30-minute self-reported survey was conducted to assess the level of HPV-related knowledge. Medical records were obtained to identify the factors associated with HPV prevalence. Samples of men who have sex with men (MSM) were recruited from the community for comparison.

Results: Among 103 heterosexual males enrolled, mean age was 46.6 years old. The prevalence of any tested HPV type was 28.3% in heterosexual males and 11.6% in MSM at the penile site, with 19.2% of high risk type in heterosexual males and 6.8% in MSM. 18.4% of men had at least one 9-valent vaccine preventable types including both sites. Associations were found in young age and HPV infections at the mouth site, skin cancers and high-risk HPV infections at both sites, verruca and low-risk oral HPV infections, and cigarette smoking and high-risk oral HPV infections.





Conclusions: To our knowledge, this will be the first study to include a comparison of HPV prevalence between heterosexual males and MSM. It may help related authorities to evaluate current policies for HPV vaccination and to reconsider the need for a vaccination-targeted population.

