

ABSTRACT

This research assessed the knowledge level and attitudes about HPV vaccines as related to cervical cancer amongst female undergraduate students in two universities in Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University and Rangsit University.

The two hundreds respondents were female undergraduate students from the 1st to 5th year study, aged between 18 – 25 years old. Purposive sampling method was used to obtain the respondents. A cross sectional design was used to describe the study, which was conducted with a questionnaire containing 31 questions, which included right or wrong answers, a 5-point Likert scale, closed-ended, and open-ended questions. The questionnaire was divided into four sections: personal information, knowledge, and attitudes about HPV vaccines as related to cervical cancer, as well as, open-ended questions to obtain suggestions and opinions about HPV vaccines. The study took four months from December 2008 to March 2009. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 14 was used to analyze the data. Descriptive statistics were used to illustrate the answers to the research questions.

The findings of this study showed that respondents had knowledge at the medium level (by correctly answering 6-8 questions). In addition, almost half of the respondents had heard about HPV, and knew that cervical cancer could be caused by HPV infection. Moreover, 89.5% of the respondents thought there should be a campaign by the government, and they were willing to participate in the campaign despite being concerned about the effectiveness and side effects of the vaccines. In the future, research should focus on women in provincial areas because they are also vulnerable to contracting infectious diseases of the genitalia.