

## Abstracts - Abstracts Posters

### Decision making process on the introduction of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine into national immunisation programmes in Europe: results of the VENICE survey

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#### Background

The first HPV vaccine was licensed in Europe in 2006. Although it has a good safety and efficacy profile, the integration into national immunisation programmes is not straightforward, mainly because of its cost and the difficulty of evaluating its added benefit to the screening programmes. As part of the VENICE project, we conducted a survey to monitor the decision-making process on HPV vaccination in Europe.

#### Methods

In January 2007, an electronic questionnaire was developed on the VENICE website and filled in by country representatives. The survey focused on: 1) ongoing studies to guide the decision, or reasons for not conducting them, 2) drivers of the decision 3) willingness to exchange developed methodologies.

#### Results

Twenty seven countries, out the 28 participating in Venice, answered the questionnaire. As of March 2007, four countries decided to include HPV vaccination in their immunisation schedules, with different target populations. Three of them supported the decision by mathematical models and/or economical assessment. Eleven countries indicated the issue as under examination by their Immunisation Advisory Body. Main drivers of the decision were the foreseen epidemiological impact on precancer and cancer lesions and the social demand. In 12 countries, modelling or economical studies were on going while they were considered in 10 countries. The majority of countries were willing to share the methodology developed under certain rules.

#### Conclusions

This is the first time that a decision making process for introducing a new vaccine is monitored in real time at European level. An updated analysis will be performed during summer. The follow-up of the process will allow identifying the main elements influencing the decision and guide future European public health actions with a more homogeneous approach.

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