Parental knowledge and girl adhesion to HPV vaccination: Siena- ITALY, 2012

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Introduction
HPV vaccination have been recently introduced. The effectiveness of the vaccination has been proved. Its acceptance, by the parents of the target population is fundamental for primary prevention. For this reason, it is important to evaluate those aspects which can influence the adherence to the campaign. The aims of this study are: i) to verify the knowledge on HPV infection and vaccination, of parents with daughters between 12-19 years, ii) to search the reasons of no adherence to vaccination, iii) to define the most active professionals on this education, iv) to verify HPV vaccination trend.

Methods
1200 questionnaires were distributed to parents of girl students born between 1993 and 2000 attending three Italian schools. Descriptive analyzes were carried out: the percentage of adherence to vaccination, the reasons for non-vaccination, the quality and way of the information received on this subject. We compared our data (X2) concerning adhesion on vaccination with those obtained from Local Health Unit (LHU).

Results
The response of return of questionnaire was 54%. 79% of girls received the vaccine. We detected heterogeneity in the reasons for not vaccinate and in the methods of learning information about HPV. 23% declared that their sources of information were not achieved from health sources, but from: radio, television, advertising posters, flyers, newspapers and internet. Questionnaires did not highlight a time trend increase in the adherence to HPV vaccination (P = 0,62), while LHU data showed this existence (P < 0,05).

Conclusions
This survey showed that the majority of female students have been vaccinated. Although 70% of parents informed on the subject, but not from official health sources. Therefore, in order to provide proper information and to avoid the “do it yourself”, health professional, should play a more active role. It would be useful to optimize cooperation between: prevention departments of LHU, general practitioner, pediatricians and gynecologists, in order to ensure adequate information.

Key messages
- 79% of girls aged, 12-19 years, received the vaccine against HPV.
- Our results indicated that some of the parents acquired unofficial/fragmented information on HPV vaccination. Proper information should be provided by Health care professional staff.