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COMPARING THE COST-UTILITY OF HPV VACCINATION STRATEGIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

INTRODUCTION

Cervical cancer is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), so the UK government has rolled out vaccination programmes to stave off the problem. The case study, “Comparing the cost utility of HPV vaccination strategies in the United Kingdom”, compares different HPV vaccination strategies in relation to economic impact.

KEY FINDINGS

The cost-effectiveness of girls-only vaccination comes at the cost of reducing long term benefits in terms of cutting HPV transmission by reducing the number of both boys and girls. While this strategy involves more initial investment, it will prevent the occurrence of more cases of HPV resulting diseases.

ANALYSIS

Cost utility analysis (CUA) is a way of health economic assessment of health care interventions by comparing costs and QALYs (quality adjusted life years). Several scenarios of multiple vaccinations are explored in the case study.

CONCLUSION

In preparing the optimal HPV vaccination strategy in the UK, cost and public health impact need to be balanced. The case demonstrates that gender neutral vaccination is of critical importance to long term reduction of disease, while retention of economic sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION

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