

# Beyond the barriers: the impact of HPV vaccination program variation among MSM PLWH

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## Introduction

- Until the spring of 2023, complimentary Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for men who have sex with men (MSM) people living with HIV (PLWH) was recommended exclusively up to age 45
- Prior to the eligibility criteria extension, a study conducted at our hospital pointed out unsatisfactory level of HPV vaccination coverage among this subgroup
- We routinely recommend HPV vaccination in multiple settings such as scheduled follow-up appointments or during sexual transmitted infections (STIs) evaluations
- Through this study, we aimed to estimate the impact of HPV vaccination program variation among our cohort of MSM PLWH.
- Thus far, a paucity of Italian data is available for appropriate comparison.

## Study Design

- This is a retrospective monocentric study conducted at the Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases of Spedali Civili in Brescia.

## Methods

- All the PLWH followed at our clinic that verbally declared to be homosexual or bisexual were included in our analysis
- Reviewing our medical records, we collected data on current HPV vaccination status

## Results

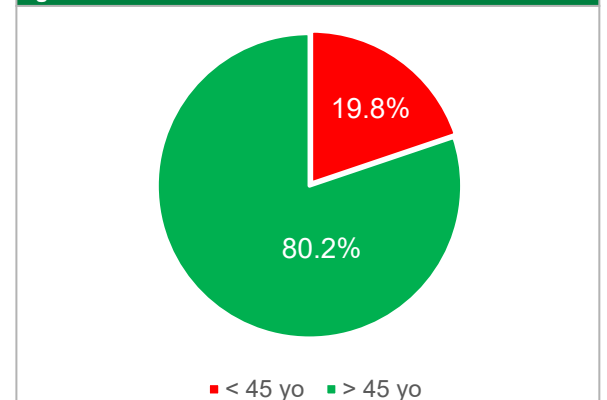
- 899 MSM PLWH were included in our analysis
- In our previous study, we only identified 214 patients vaccinated for HPV (214/899, 23.8%)
- Moreover, most of the unvaccinated patients were considered ineligible to initiate the schedule due to age restriction

## Results of 2

### AFTER THE EXTENSION

After the removal of the age restriction, in only twelve months, 111 patients (111/899, 12.3%) received the first dose of HPV vaccination (mean age 51.7, 30-69). 89 of them (89/111, 80.2%) were older than 45 years old

Figure 2  
Age distribution among MSM PLWH who received the first dose of HPV vaccination after the removal of the age restriction



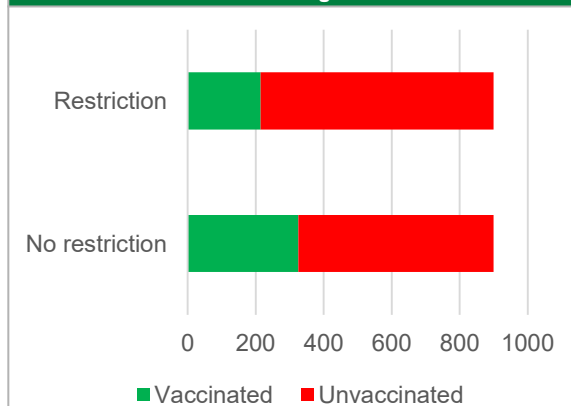
## Safety

- All the data regarding vaccination status were collected after March 2023.

## Conclusions

- Considering our results, the recent modification of HPV vaccination strategy elicited a prompt response among our MSM PLWH cohort
- In accordance with literature, enhancing accessibility is an impactful approach to increase vaccination coverage, independently of the preventable disease
- Addressing HPV knowledge and awareness of its carcinogenic potential are feasible avenues to reduce vaccination hesitancy.
- Further research is needed, especially in our country.

Figure 1  
HPV vaccination coverage among MSM PLWH before and after the removal of the age restriction



## Results of 3

### OVERALL RESPONSE

69 second doses were administered and 22 patients completed the schedule.

## References

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