



**DEVELOPMENT OF A MULTI-LEVEL INTERVENTION FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF HPV EDUCATION & THE INTEGRATION OF
HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE HPV VACCINATION RECEIPT AMONG
YOUNG DENTAL PATIENTS**

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Background

Currently in the United States human papillomavirus (HPV) linked oropharyngeal cancer is on the rise. Even though, in the United States we have access to the vaccine that prevents HPV infection less than half of adolescents are completing the recommended HPV vaccines. In Utah the rates of HPV vaccination are extremely low. To lower rates of HPV infections that cause HPV oropharyngeal cancers, the HPV vaccination recipient rate must increase significantly for adolescents.

Hypothesis/Purpose

The goal is to investigate the most feasible and promising approaches to educate parents, dentists, and dental teams about HPV and HPV oropharyngeal cancers. The research team will also explore strategies to work with primary care providers to improve HPV vaccination rates among dental patients ages 11 to 26 years old. This study will also be assessing clinical, personal, and cultural barriers dental providers have in regard to including HPV education and promoting the HPV vaccine in their practice.

Methods

As a pilot test, the methodology of this project will include a multi-level HPV vaccination education and HPV vaccination delivery intervention for parents, dental health providers, and dental health teams at four dental practices that have affiliated primary healthcare systems who offer the HPV vaccination. Several practicing dental providers in Utah will be given access to a

multi-step survey that includes questions related to clinical, personal, and cultural barriers in connection to HPV education and the HPV vaccine.

Results/Summary

This pilot study is now in the process of reaching out to these practices and collecting data so no results are available at this time. However, we are confident that educating parents, dental health providers, and dental health teams about HPV linked oropharyngeal cancer through alternative venues we will be able to increase HPV vaccination rates and decrease the rate of HPV linked oropharyngeal cancers. Dental practices offer more access to children and parents and are an important focus as they contribute to expanding the utilization of the HPV vaccine and improving HPV oropharyngeal cancer education among adolescents and parents.