

“IDENTIFICATION AND IMPACT OF RISK FAC- TORS IN CERVICAL CAN- CER: AN INTEGRATIVE APPROACH”

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Abstract: This study seeks to identify and analyze the risk factors for the development of cervical cancer and its characteristics in order to understand the association of these factors with the pathology. Thus, the relevance of the study is observed, given the prevalence of cervical cancer among women and the significant number of deaths resulting from this pathology. In this sense, the main risk factors related to the human papillomavirus and the development of cervical cancer are: smoking, sexually transmitted diseases (HIV, chlamydia, trichomoniasis and candidiasis), use of hormonal contraceptives, number and characteristics of partners, onset early sexual activity, human papillomavirus infection. Furthermore, there is a direct association between the presence of HPV and cervical cancer. The type of HPV, its viral load, persistence of aggression and other supporting factors are factors associated with the development of cervical cancer.

Keywords: HPV, Cervical neoplasia, Risk factors, Pap smear.

INTRODUCTION

The present study aims to analyze the risk factors for cervical cancer and its characteristics, considering biological aspects and other factors. According to Costa (2016), cervical cancer is characterized by cervical intraepithelial neoplasia and represents a serious public health problem in the world, being the second most prevalent type of neoplasia in the world and causing serious morbidity in Brazil. It is currently considered the third most common type of neoplasia in women in the country and the fourth most common cause of death from cancer in this same population.

Bento (2023), states that the socioeconomic conditions of the female population are factors that are related to the identification of the signs and symptoms of the disease. Thus,

factors such as age, education, marital status, multiplicity of partners must be considered important for the adoption of preventive and educational measures aimed at preventing cervical cancer. Cervical cancer prevention is carried out through the use of condoms during sexual intercourse, early screening with the Pap smear and through vaccination against the most serious forms of HPV (types 16 and 18), which are associated with aggressive forms of cervical cancer.

Therefore, according to Barros (2021), the HPV virus is considered the most common sexually transmitted infectious agent. Infection occurs through infectious viral particles in contact with normal cells of the cervix, so that the HPV genome and integrated cellular chromosomes evolve into oncogenic cells. It is understood that forms of carcinoma without the presence of HPV are rare, assuming that it was caused by viral infection or that there may have been a failure to detect the HPV virus.

From this perspective, Iwamoto (2017) states that prophylaxis is carried out with the recently developed VLP vaccine for HPV. This would lead to a drastic reduction in the rates of infection and disease caused by the specific types covered in the vaccine. The vaccine is directed against the types that cause anogenital disease and are derived from expression of the major capsid protein (L1) gene in tissue culture.

It is known that there is a tetravalent product that contains HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18 and a divalent product containing HPV types 16 and 18. HPV types 16 and 18 are responsible for 70% of cervical cancers 12 while 6 and 11 are responsible for low-grade lesions and 90% of anogenital warts. Both vaccines are highly immunogenic, based on determination of serum antibody titers after vaccination.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study consists of a bibliographical research by searching for articles and other scientific publications in the selected databases: Scielo, PubMed and Medline, using the guiding question: “What are the risk factors for cervical cancer?”

After that, the descriptors were chosen as a search strategy on scientific platforms and studies were selected to carry out the categorization and filtering of information with the aim of interpreting the data and results formulated for the research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The table 1 presents the selected scientific research that guided the development of this study, including the year of publication, the main author, the title and the objective of the research. By collecting information and interpreting it, it was possible to formulate a discussion about the risk factors for cervical cancer, their characteristics and the main forms of prevention.

Thus, Silva (2023) observed that the main risk factors for cervical cancer are: smoking, sexually transmitted diseases (HPV, chlamydia, trichomoniasis and candidiasis), use of hormonal contraceptives, number and characteristics of partners, onset early sexual activity, human papilloma virus infection.

According to Silva (2023), other factors such as low socioeconomic status, hygiene, smoking, malnutrition, stigma surrounding HIV, lack of knowledge, early coitarche and sexually transmitted diseases are also associated with the development of cervical neoplasia. Furthermore, health professionals play an important role in the prevention, screening and monitoring of women with cervical cancer.

According to Costa (2019), it is understood that cervical cancer is the disordered growth of the tissue of the cervix and changes in

the cellular structures of these tissues, in which it can invade nearby organs, being the main characteristic of this type. of cancer. The resulting injuries begin with small pre-invasive injuries, with full recovery, but when these injuries are defined as invasive, recovery is difficult, almost impossible, so that the quality of life of these women is truly affected.

In this sense, women’s little knowledge about cervical cancer causes pain and feelings of shame to increase, and in the midst of this circumstance, according to Rafael (2017), as the treatment process is slow and there are factors that make healing difficult, the family starts to play an important role, being the main ally of these patients for the continuity of treatment and the recovery of these women.

Furthermore, in the study carried out by Manhães (2018), it was discovered that women who have more than 4 children constitute a risk factor for cervical cancer, biological mechanisms such as hormonal, nutritional and immunological explain the association between multiparity and cervical neoplasia. Furthermore, smoking, another risk factor, significantly reduces the amount and function of Langerhans cells, which are responsible for defending epithelial tissue.

The use of hormonal contraceptives is also a serious risk factor, it is assumed that with its use there is greater sexual liberation, confusing the use of contraceptives with the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, which thus ends up generating a greater situation of vulnerability.

According to Sá (2019), the diagnosis of cervical cancer represents a preventive exam and consists of investigating the virus infecting the normal cells of the cervix, known as a Pap smear, it is generally effective, such an exam is fundamental for the prevention and reduction of recurrent cases of cancer due to the Papilloma virus, it is important to highlight that the diagnosis is made gradually. At the

Year	Author	Title	Goals
2023	Maria Luiza Laureano Galvão da Silva	Human papillomavirus and risk factors in cervical cancer	To verify the main risk factors associated with HPV in cervical cancer in Brazil and evaluate the relationship between human papillomavirus infection and the development of cervical neoplasia.
2019	Telma Maria Lubambo Costa	Human papillomavirus and risk factors for cervical adenocarcinoma in the State of Pernambuco, Brazil.	To determine the incidence of the main human papillomaviruses (HPV) with high oncogenic risk (16, 18,31 and 33) and the factors associated with cervical adenocarcinoma.
2017	Rafael Ricardo de Mattos Russo	Health Belief Model and cervical cancer screening: assessing vulnerabilities.	To evaluate the risk factors for inadequate cervical cancer screening based on the Health Beliefs model.
2018	Thais Manhães Feres	Prevalence of cervical cancer: a descriptive study.	To evaluate the prevalence of cervical cancer in the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil and its associated factors.
2019	Kássia Camila Camargo de Sá	The Pap smear in the prevention of cervical cancer: an integrative review.	Highlight the importance of carrying out cytopathological examination as the main method of early diagnosis of cervical cancer.
2019	Temilde Santos	The importance of cytopathological examination in the prevention of cervical cancer.	Discuss the importance of cytopathological examination (Pap smear) for the prevention of cervical cancer.
2023	Amanda Goulart Moura Bento	Behavioral risk factors for cervical cancer.	Present data that guide studies regarding cervical cancer and the behavioral factors related to its development in Brazil and the world.

Table 1: Characteristics of the selected studies.

first level of basic care, this must be responsible for initiating the care process, in which the woman must undergo screening cytology and cytological control. The secondary unit must be a reference for the cervical pathology service, which has the function of diagnostic confirmation, treatment and monitoring of pre-malignant and malignant changes. At this stage, cytopathological, colposcopic control, biopsy and excisional methods take place.

Santos (2019), defines that the prevention of cervical neoplasia can be primary or secondary, primary prevention is low-cost and easy to implement and is established by health promotion actions and consists of changing and eliminating risk factors, while secondary prevention is related to the screening of sexually active women through oncotic cytology with the aim of detecting precursor lesions to treat them as early as possible.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Therefore, it can be considered that the main risk factors related to the development of cervical cancer are smoking, sexually transmitted diseases (HIV, chlamydia, trichomoniasis and candidiasis), use of hormonal contraceptives, number and characteristics of partners, onset early sexual activity and human papillomavirus infection.

Thus, the direct association between the presence of HPV and cervical cancer, the type of HPV, its viral load, the persistence of aggression and other supporting factors are factors related to cervical cancer. In this context, Silva (2023), highlights other risk factors associated with the development of colon cancer are the relationship with low socioeconomic status, nulliparity or a reduced number of pregnancies, more than two sexual partners in a lifetime, non-use of condoms, the use of contraceptives and the presence of some STDs. The association of these supporting factors with individual predisposition, plus the type of HPV that affects the woman, may favor high- or low-grade dysplastic lesions.

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