

To: Beth Balderston <info@cervicalcanceraction.org>
From: Cervical Cancer Action for Elimination
From Email: info@cervicalcanceraction.org
Subject: Cervical Cancer Action for Elimination News Brief
Preheader:

Trouble viewing this email? [Read it online](#)



Cervical Cancer Action for Elimination

News Brief | October 2019

World Health Organization releases guidelines for use of thermal ablation for cervical pre-cancer lesions

Cryotherapy is a WHO-recommended ablative treatment for precancerous cervical lesions. However, the refrigerant gases come in containers that are heavy and costly, and low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) often have trouble maintaining supplies. Thermal ablation, or thermocoagulation, is another ablative treatment for cervical lesions but has not been included in WHO guidelines for treatment. Because positive evidence has been accumulating for use of thermal ablation, WHO has now developed guidelines for its use. Thermal ablation equipment is simple, lightweight, and easily portable to LMIC field clinics, where it runs on mains electricity or batteries. Like cryotherapy, thermal ablation may be provided by a variety of healthcare personnel, including primary healthcare workers, and is typically performed without anesthesia. The guidelines will be available online soon.

World Health Organization's draft global strategy towards cervical cancer elimination

The WHO's draft [Global Strategy towards the Elimination of Cervical Cancer as a Public Health Problem](#) was developed through a number of meetings with Member States representatives and technical experts. The continuing global dialogue will inform further development of the draft and a final version for consideration by the Seventy-third World Health Assembly (WHA) in May of 2020 in Geneva. The proposed targets for the elimination strategy by 2030 are the following:

- 90% of girls fully vaccinated with the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine by 15 years of age
- 70% of women are screened with a high-precision test 1 at 35 and 45 years of age
- 90% of women identified with cervical disease receive treatment and care

Countries on the move

Malawi HPV vaccine introduction

The Government of Malawi, with support from Gavi, introduced HPV vaccine into the routine immunization schedule in January 2019. The introduction commenced with a single age cohort of 9-year-old girls, with vaccine administered in schools and at static and outreach clinics for out-of-school girls. The recently published technical report on the introduction showed that it was highly successful, leading to a coverage rate of 84%.

Global HPV vaccine introduction overview

As of 22 August 2019, 100 World Health Organization member states, as well as 21 non-members, had HPV vaccination on their national routine immunization schedules. Among these, 20 countries and four territories have gender-neutral HPV vaccination schedules. An additional 37 countries and territories are projected to add HPV vaccine to their routine schedules by the end of 2022. PATH plans to publish the latest vaccination maps online soon.

Other developments in cervical cancer prevention

PAHO brings together leaders of governments, United Nations agencies, and civil society to address strategies for the prevention and control of cervical cancer

Representatives of the Ministries of Health of 26 countries of the Americas, along with UN agencies and civil society organizations, met in Washington, DC, from August 1 to 2, 2019, to discuss effective interventions for prevention and control of cervical cancer. The meeting was in support of the proposed World Health Organization "Global Strategy towards the Elimination of Cervical Cancer." Participants reviewed the PAHO Action Plan for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control 2018-2030 and discussed activities to accelerate its implementation at the country level. Participants also reviewed and provided opinions on the draft WHO strategy document.

AORTIC 12th International Conference on Cancer in Africa

The biennial AORTIC conference, themed "Cancer in Africa: Innovation, Strategies, Implementation," will be held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 5 to 8 November 2019. The conference expects to welcome more than 1000 participants from across the world. AORTIC is the largest and longest-established international conference that has a multidisciplinary focus on cancer in Africa and takes place solely in Africa. Examples of the many presentations on cervical cancer are the following:

- use of thermal ablation in a screen-and-treat cervical cancer screening service in Malawi
- performance of cervical cancer screening and triage tests in Rwandan women living with HIV
- low-cost HPV test and optical imaging system for triage of HPV positive women in Mozambique
- mHealth strategies to improve secondary prevention of cervical cancer in Tanzania

Visit the [AORTIC conference website](#) for more information and the full provisional program.

2020 meeting of the International Papillomavirus Society (IPVC 2020)

The [33rd International Papillomavirus Conference](#) & Basic Science, Clinical and Public Health Workshops will be held March 23 to 26 in Barcelona, Spain. The meeting will gather researchers, clinicians, and other health professionals to share knowledge and ideas on papillomaviruses and their associated diseases, from basic science to global health impact. The theme will be "harnessing the power of innovation from HPV research to deliver globally prevention and control of HPV-related disease."

International partner news

TogetherHER for Health

- Webinars: On September 19, 2019, TogetherHER presented a webinar on "Thermal Ablation: Recommendations for Secondary Prevention." This webinar introduced WHO's new thermal ablation guidelines, explored the evidence base for the approach, and provided real-world examples of its implementation at the country level. A webinar on HPV vaccination is scheduled for October 24 at 10:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time and is [open for registration](#).
- On September 25 in New York, cervical cancer advocates and implementers convened on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly to discuss cervical cancer elimination. The luncheon event was hosted by the American Cancer Society, TogetherHER, UICC and Cepheid, along with PATH, Pathfinder, Unitaid, Basic Health International, Jhpiego, and PSI. Distinguished guests were Princess Dina Mired from UICC, Marisol Touraine, the Board Chair of Unitaid, and HE The First Lady of Burkina Faso. Also speaking were Shannon Hader of UNAIDS, Nick Banatvala of WHO, Sharon Kampambwe of Zambia, Molly Rammipi of Botswana, and Murtala May of Pathfinder.
- On November 4 in Washington, DC, TogetherHER will host a meeting to explore ways of accelerating the integration of cervical cancer and family planning services. The meeting aims to determine gaps in our understanding of why and how to integrate these services, and is co-sponsored by FP2020, Jhpiego, PATH, Pathfinder, and Population Services International.

Global Initiative Against HPV and Cervical Cancer (GIAHC)

- GIAHC, the American Medical Women's Association, and Indiana University will host the 2020 Us vs. HPV Prevention Week webinar series from January 27 to 31. More information will be available soon on the [GIAHC website](#).
- With support from GIAHC, the organization HOPE Peru: "Women who help women to fight cervical cancer" has developed videos in Spanish, English, Quechua, and Aymara (native languages of Peru) to create awareness regarding the importance of screening and to break myths around cervical cancer.

PATH

- Representatives from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua met on October 7–9 in Antigua, Guatemala, to discuss lessons learned during PATH's Scale-Up project in their countries. Scale-Up introduced and scaled up HPV testing for cervical cancer screening in public sector medical systems. Attendees represented Ministries of Health, NGOs, academic institutions, and the Pan American Health Organization. The goals of the meeting were to share the most recent project results, discuss how lessons learned can inform and build on the WHO call for global cervical cancer elimination, and generate action plans for wide dissemination of findings.

Marie Stopes International

- MSI has continued to expand its screen and treat programs. In September, training was held in Ghana for 11 participants from Ghana and Malawi. These participants will now act as trainers, to cascade their training over the next year to increase capacity for MSI and ministry of health staff. All training programs have been equipped with cryotherapy machines so staff can teach the single-visit approach.

American Cancer Society

- In 2014, HPV vaccination rates plummeted from 95% to less than 10% in Colombia due to a bizarre situation in one small town. The Colombian League against Cancer and the American Cancer Society have cooperated to reestablish confidence in the safety of the vaccine. After one year of involvement with the community in the department of Arauca, vaccination rates have increased almost 50%. This success is attributed to building commitment with key policy makers and having a strong communications strategy with evidence-based materials that motivate action.

info@cervicalcanceraction.org | www.cervicalcanceraction.org/initiative/

This email is intended for info@cervicalcanceraction.org.

[Update your preferences](#) or [Unsubscribe](#)

