Development, Implementation and Assessment of a Cervical Cancer Risk Assessment and Referral Tool in two Drop-In-Centers Serving Female Sex Workers in Kampala, Uganda



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91.42%

Post-menopausal Bleeding | 5

Intermenstrual Bleeding

3+Pregnancies

Tobacco Use

Sexual Debut < 16

Prior STI Diagnosis

Vaginal Bleeding During Sex

Inconsistent Condom Use

Abnormal Vaginal Discharge

>1 Sexual Partners (last 6 mo)

No HPV Vaccine / Unsure

Gential Warts 14

Background

- Cervical cancer (CxCa) is the most common cancer among Ugandan women¹
- Regular screening for HPV and CxCa allows for earlier detection and treatment, leading to better health outcomes²
- HPV screening services are limited in lowresource settings, indicating a need for no-cost tools³
- Female sex workers (FSWs) are at increased risk for CxCa and face unique barriers that make regular screening difficult⁴

Aims

- Pilot a new CxCa risk and referral tool at two drop-in centers (DICs) serving Ugandan FSWs
- Determine eligibility for visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA), a CxCa screening method
- Estimate CxCa risk among Ugandan FSWs attending DICs for health services

Methods

Questionnaire informed by Ugandan CxCa screening Creation guidelines & published high risk behaviors for HPV

DIC staff training Prep

Database creation

Administered June 2023 – May 2024 to Usage FSWs attending DICs for health services

> DICs contact referral organization to determine screening completion & results

Results

CxCa SCREENING ELIGIBILITY



57.14%

CxCa RISK SCORE

53.9%

100% of the FSWs that completed the tool were classified as higher risk for CxCa

98.37% had unknown / negative HPV vaccination status

4.35%

- 96.33% had > 1 sexual partner in the last 6 months
- 95.1% had previous STI diagnosis

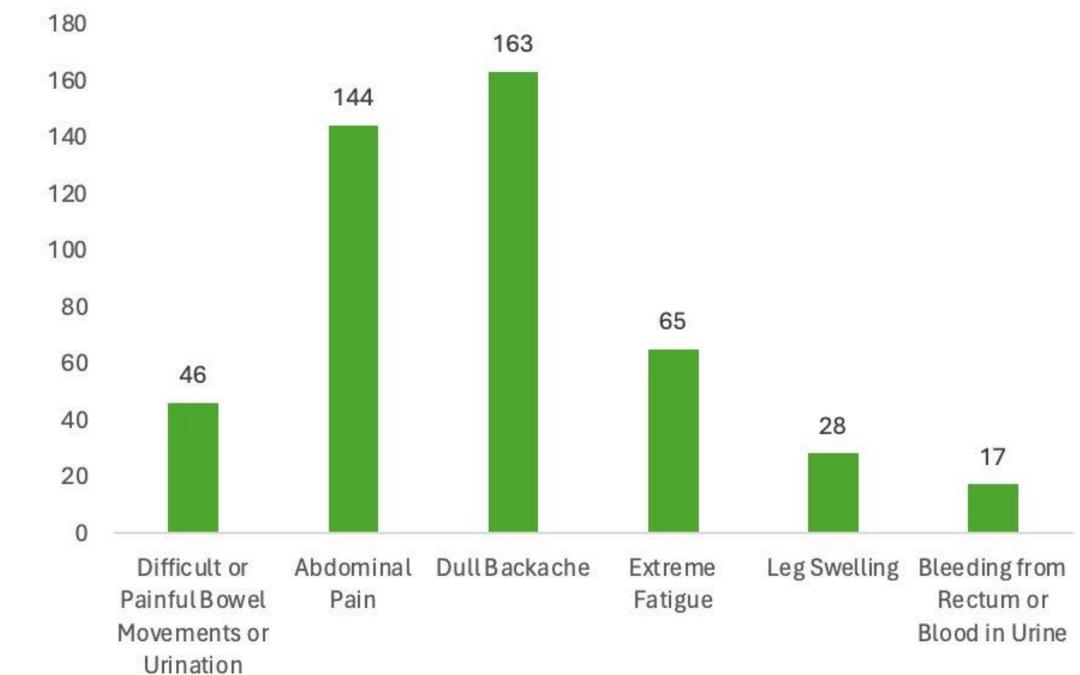
Risk scores were, on average, higher for those HIV+

- Average for HIV+: 8.16 / 16 (SD=1.71)
- Average for HIV-: 6.16 / 15 (SD=2.26)

SYMPTOMS

94.69% of the FSWs experienced at least 1 symptom associated with CxCa

- Of those, 70.36% experienced dull backache, 62.07% experienced abdominal pain, and 28.02% experienced extreme fatigue
- Average number of symptoms was 1.89 (SD=1.09)



DISCUSSION

- The risk and referral tool was effective in guiding DIC staff's medical decision-making regarding CxCa screening referrals
- Usage of the tool led to the identification of FSWs with CxCa and connected them with treatment
- **FSWs face barriers** that affect their 1) willingness to be referred for CxCa screening and 2) completion of CxCa screening appointments
- Ugandan FSWs are at high risk for CxCa

NEXT STEPS

- Develop and disseminate **HPV and CxCa** educational materials to Ugandan FSW population
- Assess for **barriers** preventing Ugandan FSWs from completing CxCa screening referrals
- Address common misconceptions on HPV, CxCa, and screening methods

Acknowledgements

Follow-

Up

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