CANCER DE CÉRVIX

Cervical cancer prevention and treatment in Latin America.

Lopez MS, Baker ES, Maza M, Fontes-Cintra G, Lopez A, Carvajal JM, Nozar F, Fiol V, Schmeler KM.

J Surg Oncol. 2017 Apr;115(5):615-618.

Abstract

Cervical cancer is a preventable disease with a known etiology (human papillomavirus), effective preventive vaccines, excellent screening methods, and a treatable pre-invasive phase. Surgery is the primary treatment for pre-invasive and early-stage disease and can safely be performed in many low-resource settings. However, cervical cancer rates remain high in many areas of Latin America. This article presents a number of evidence-based strategies being implemented to improve cervical cancer outcomes in Latin America.

Treatment of cervical intraepithelial lesions.

Castle PE, Murokora D, Perez C, Alvarez M, Quek SC, Campbell C.

Int J Gynaecol Obstet. 2017 Jul;138 Suppl 1:20-25.

Abstract

Precancerous cervical lesions precede the development of invasive cervical cancer by 10-20 years, making cervical cancer preventable if these lesions are detected and effectively treated. Treatment has evolved in the last few decades and now includes ablative options that can be performed in lower-resource settings where surgical excision is not feasible or routinely available. Gas-based cryotherapy, which freezes cervical tissue to induce localized necrosis, is the most commonly used ablative treatment. However, its implementation in low-resource settings is difficult because the refrigerant gas can be difficult to procure and transport, and is expensive. New cryotherapy devices that do not require an external supply of gas appear promising. Thermal coagulation, which burns cervical tissue to induce necrosis, has become more widely available in the last few years owing to its portability and the feasibility of using battery-powered devices. These two ablative treatments successfully eradicate 75%-85% of high-grade cervical lesions and have minor adverse effects.

Cervical Cancer Prevention and Cancer Control in Latin America

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Letter.

Vidaurre T.

Clin Cancer Res. 2015 Dec 15;21(24):5644-5.

Abstract

Cervical cancer is the most common cancer affecting several Latin American countries, causing high mortality for women living in poor economic conditions. It represents a major public health problem in Latin America and is of major economic impact on society.

Cancer treatments are expensive and not affordable for many patients, and the cost must be borne by public health systems. Lou and colleagues reported in Clinical Cancer Research the first study focusing on molecular analyses of cervical cancer in Latin America

(1). Their study characterized the exome sequence of 24 tumors from Guatemala and targeted sequencing of seven of the most frequently mutated genes in 675 tumors from Guatemala, Venezuela, and Mexico. They demonstrated frequent activation of the PIK3CA pathway, almost exclusively mutations in the helical domain of PIK3CA. Lou and colleagues also provide preliminary data on the possibility that cooking with wood may be a cancer risk factor, along with the known effects of tobacco. The article is an excellent example of the need for studies of high prevalence cancers in the countries affected and international cooperation in important global health issues. In Peru, we have generated a public health strategy to diagnose and treat cervical cancer.