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HPV knows no boundaries of sex, color, age, or sexual orientation

Robin Gosdin Farrell and Kelli Whitted
Troy University, USA

Healthcare focus regarding Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) has been primarily directed toward the role the virus plays in the formation of cervical pre-cancerous lesions and cancer. However, there has been little information of HPV in oral or anal cancer formation. Education and prevention are the keys to decrease prevalence rates and curb medical costs involved with HPV infections and cancers. HPV can be prevented by vaccines, preventative measures, and training of health providers on who, what and where to look during health exams. Knowledge regarding the association of HPV with various oral lesions and anal lesions is being presently published and shared with the medical community. Some of these lesions are asymptomatic and benign, and then there are those that are cancerous upon further investigation. HPV 16 and 18 are the most common high risk viruses that cause cervical cancer and have also been isolated in oral and anal cancers. Other forms of HPV associated with oral lesions include 2, 4, 6, and 11. These lesions have been found to be communicable as well as transmitted by self-inoculation. Even with education regarding the high risk of sexual intercourse, many teens and young adults engage in sex at an earlier age and more openly with multiple partners, casual sex, oral sex and even open mouth kissing. Sites where oral lesions are prevalent are the base of the tongue, vocal cords, tonsils, and other areas of the oral cavity. HPV prevalence has been shown to be 35.6% in oropharyngeal cancers, 23.5% in oral cancers, and 24.0% in laryngeal cancers. If the prevalence of oral HPV continues at this rate, it will surpass cervical HPV by 2020. Experimentation with anal intercourse is increasing in sexual relationships as well. HPV can be prevented by vaccines, preventative measures, and training of health providers on who, what and where to look during health exams. Anal cancers associated with HPV account for close to 5,000 cases of cancer per year. HPV lesions located in and around the anal sphincter, buttocks cheeks, and inside the rectal vault are associated with heterosexual couples that engage in rectal sex, men who have sex with men (MSM), bisexual or males on the down-low. HPV is now being discovered in a new identified group of women who have sex with women (WSM) through vaginal secretions directly and transference from vaginal appliances and toys.

Biography

Robin Gosdin Farrell has completed her DNP in 2010 from University of Alabama in Birmingham. She returned for her terminal degree after practicing for 25 years in family practice and college health. She is an Assistant Professor at Troy University School of Nursing and is lead faculty for all FNP program courses and lead faculty for DNP residency clinical courses. This is the beginning of her 4th year. She has presented podium and poster presentations at numerous regional and national professional conferences.

rgfarrell@troy.edu