The role of general vaccine hesitancy in HPV vaccine intention among young adults
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BACKGROUND:
• HPV vaccination rates remain low despite the vaccine being a safe, effective means of preventing HPV-related cancers (1)
• HPV vaccination rates have declined since the COVID-19 pandemic, which may be due to increased vaccine hesitancy (2)
• Previous research examined the association between HPV-related factors and HPV vaccine intention, but not the role of general vaccine hesitancy (4–9)

The current study examined if general vaccine hesitancy is associated with HPV vaccine intention above & beyond established correlates from the Health Belief Model (HBM)

METHODS:
• Used baseline data from No-HPV-4-ME intervention study
• Participants completed an online survey before & after a vaccine intervention
  N = 298, unvaccinated 18- to 26-year-old college students
  Average age = 20.7 (2.1)
  67.6% women (n = 202)

MEASURES:
• Sociodemographic information
• Health Belief Model (HBM)
  • Self-efficacy
    3 items, alpha = .73
  • Perceived benefits
    1 item
  • Perceived illness severity
    2 items, alpha = .75
  • Perceived susceptibility
    2 items, alpha = .78
  • Perceived barriers
    11 items, alpha = .78
  • Safety concerns
    5 items, alpha = .67
• General Vaccine Hesitancy
  1 item
• HPV Vaccine Intention
  4 items, alpha = .91

RESULTS:
• Hierarchical regression was used to assess the contribution of general vaccine hesitancy in explaining HPV vaccine intention above & beyond those contributed by sociodemographic and HBM variables
• All models were significantly related to HPV vaccine intention
• General vaccine hesitancy accounted for a significant amount of variance above & beyond sociodemographic & HBM factors (+1.9%)
• In the final model, self-efficacy had the strongest relationship to HPV vaccine intention, followed by perceived benefits, perceived susceptibility, & general vaccine hesitancy

DISCUSSION:
• General vaccine hesitancy plays an important role in explaining HPV vaccine intention
• General vaccine hesitancy accounts for variance not explained by HBM factors that are typically used to predict HPV vaccine intention and uptake
• General vaccine hesitancy should be addressed in vaccine interventions in addition to HPV-related factors
• Addressing general hesitancy may increase HPV vaccine uptake, preventing future cases of HPV-related cancers

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT:
• Data was deidentified & handled securely to protect sensitive information, such as sexual activity & health beliefs
• Data was self-reported & relied on participant accuracy & disclosure regarding vaccination, stigma, and sexual activity & may be vulnerable to social desirability bias

Means and standard deviations for regression variables**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Vaccine Intention</th>
<th>Vaccine Hesitancy</th>
<th>Self-efficacy</th>
<th>Perceived benefits</th>
<th>Perceived barriers</th>
<th>Perceived susceptibility</th>
<th>Perceived severity</th>
<th>Perceived benefits</th>
<th>Safety concerns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13.4 (4.5)</td>
<td>1.8 (0.8)</td>
<td>10.3 (2.9)</td>
<td>29.4 (8.6)</td>
<td>5.4 (4.3)</td>
<td>7.8 (2.2)</td>
<td>3.8 (1)</td>
<td>11.1 (3.3)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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** Range for variable total scores can be found by scanning the QR code