Herd protection against oral HPV infections seen among men

September 11 2019

In unvaccinated men aged 18 to 59 years, the prevalence of vaccine-type

oral human papillomavirus (HPV) decreased between 2009 to 2010 and 2015 to 2016, according to a research letter published in the Sept. 10 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Anil K. Chaturvedi, Ph.D., from the National Cancer Institute in Rockville, Maryland, and colleagues conducted a study across four cycles of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey to examine evidence for herd protection against oral HPV infections in unvaccinated men and women aged 18 to 59 years.

The researchers found that during 2009 to 2016, HPV vaccination rates increased from 0 to 5.8 percent in men and from 7.3 to 15.1 percent in women. In unvaccinated men, there was a decrease in vaccine-type oral HPV prevalence from 2.7 percent during 2009 to 2010 to 1.6 percent during 2015 to 2016 (adjusted prevalence ratio, 0.63; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.44 to 0.90). In unvaccinated men, the prevalence of nonvaccine-type oral HPV infections remained unchanged (8.6 percent in 2009 to 2010 to 8.4 percent in 2015 to 2016; adjusted prevalence ratio, 1.02; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.79 to 1.33). The prevalence of oral HPV for vaccine types and nonvaccine types remained unchanged in unvaccinated women.

"The estimated herd protection should be incorporated into evaluations of the cost-effectiveness of HPV vaccination of men older than 26 years," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

More information: Abstract/Full Text (subscription or payment may be required)