

Role of Healthcare professionals in HPV vaccine hesitancy in France

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*Prevention and control of HPV and HPV related cancers in France:
the current landscape and way forward*

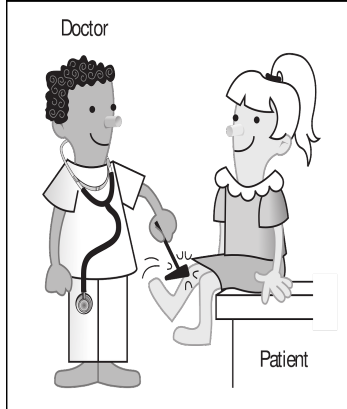
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Presentation outline



- French context on vaccination in general & HPV vaccination

- Patient-provider interaction



- Girls and mothers perceptions of doctors
- Doctors attitudes towards HPV vaccination
- Way they interact with patients



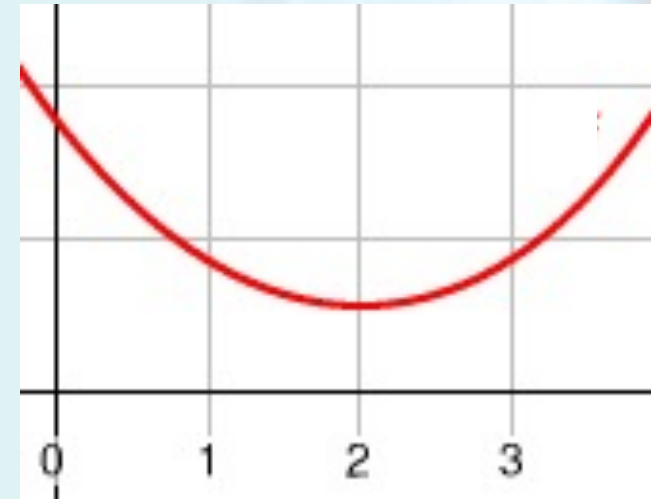
- Psychosocial determinants of GPs HPV behaviors

French general context regarding vaccination

- Multiplication of vaccination-related controversies over the past decades
- Increased public concern about vaccine safety [Rey, 2018; Larson, 2016]
- Inadequate vaccination coverage for some vaccines, especially HPV vaccines
- Extension of obligatory vaccination to 11 early childhood vaccines, decided in July 2017, but not for adolescent vaccination
- Health path and COVID-19 vaccination mandates for health professionals decided 7 months after the start of campaign rollout in 2021

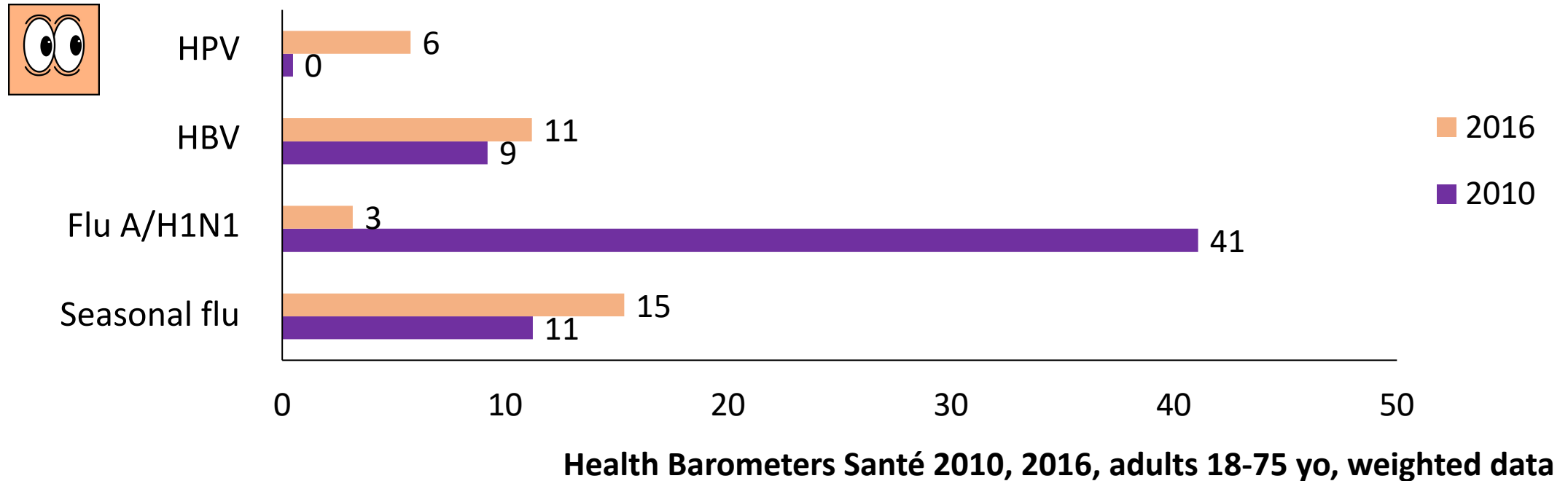
French context about HPV vaccination

- Private GPs vaccine young adolescents against HPV in France
- May 2014, start of a controversy on HPV vaccine:
 - Doctors petition to the Health Ministry
 - Families filed lawsuits blaming HPV vaccine
- Decline in HPV vaccination coverage between 2009 (26%) and 2016 (<20%)
- An increase afterwards: 33% in 2020



Population vaccine perceptions over 2010-2016

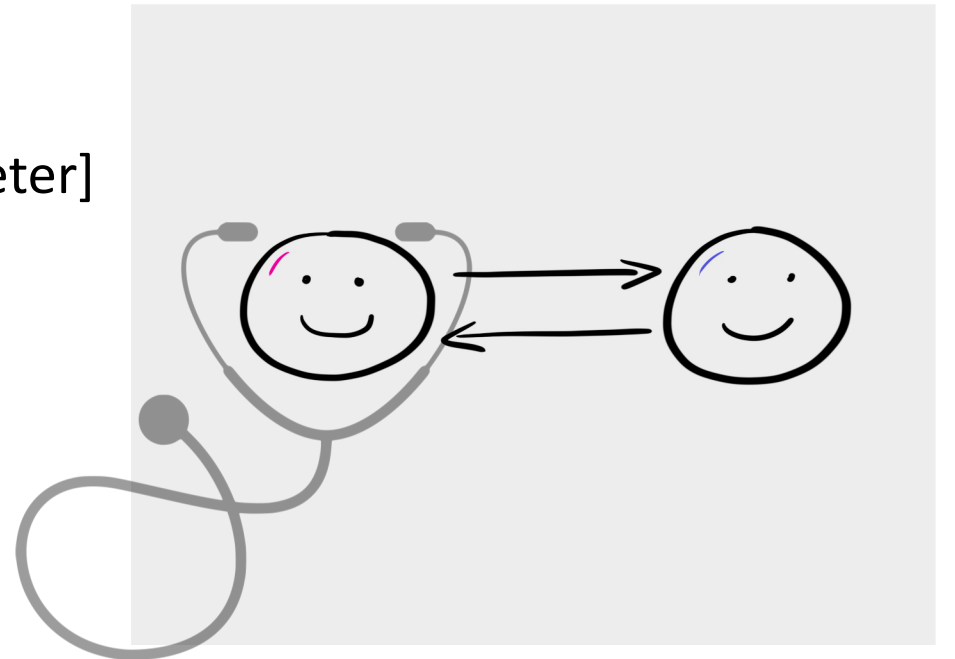
Are you unfavourable to certain vaccines in particular, and if yes, which of them?



HPV vaccine perceived risk/benefit balance among parents of girls aged 11-15years, in 2016:
unfavourable: 25%; uncertain: 38% (Rey et al. 2018)

Patient-provider interaction

- Cornerstone of maintaining confidence in vaccination and addressing vaccine hesitancy (Leask 2012)
- Strong impact of doctors recommendations on patients' vaccination behaviour (Schwarzinger 2010)
- The French population trusts doctors more than any other profession [IRSN barometer]
 - Close doctor-patient relationship
 - Patients are looking for the doctor who is best for them



Role of mothers of adolescent girls on HPV

(Qualitative interviews, Ward 2014*)

- Mothers committed to the decision
 - The most hesitant ones document themselves the most
- Disturbing elements of the decision
 - Controversies (media)
 - Searching for information on the internet
 - Conflicting opinions between the consulted doctors

* 19 qualitative interviews



Girls and mothers perceptions of doctors role

(Qualitative interviews*, E. Karafillakis)

- Girls: trust their doctors around health and HPV vaccination,
 - their mothers remain the main decision-maker in any case
- Mothers: strongly trust their doctors
 - Can **delegate** vaccination decisions to their doctor
 - Value **listening**, not pressuring
 - Doctors' role **model** important to them
 - Some mothers afraid of being **judged**
 - Some mothers do not vaccinate their daughters because their doctors has recommended **against** it



* Individual interviews of 24 adolescent girls and 21 mothers, 2 focus groups of adolescents girls (5-7 participants each), from October 2018 to March 2019.

Vaccine hesitancy may be present among GPs

Results of quantitative surveys in 2014 & 2020




Opinions, attitudes et behaviors of GPs regarding HPV vaccination	2014 * % agree	2020 ** % agree (% don't know)
Vaccinated her/his daughters (11-25 years) against HPV	76	--
Recommends HPV vaccine often/always	72	82
Nowadays some recommended vaccines are useless	26	8 (1)
Children are vaccinated against too many diseases	20	5 (1)
Lack of knowledge and hindsight on risks of HPV vaccine	60	--
Doubts about HPV vaccine effectiveness	24	--
Benefits of HPV vaccine far outstand its potential risks	--	86 (5)


* Representative national sample (Panel 3: N=1574), survey in 2014

** National represnettaive sample (Panel 4: N=1,209), survey in 2020

Three types of doctors* attitudes towards HPV vaccination (Bouchez 2020, qualitative study of 28 doctors)



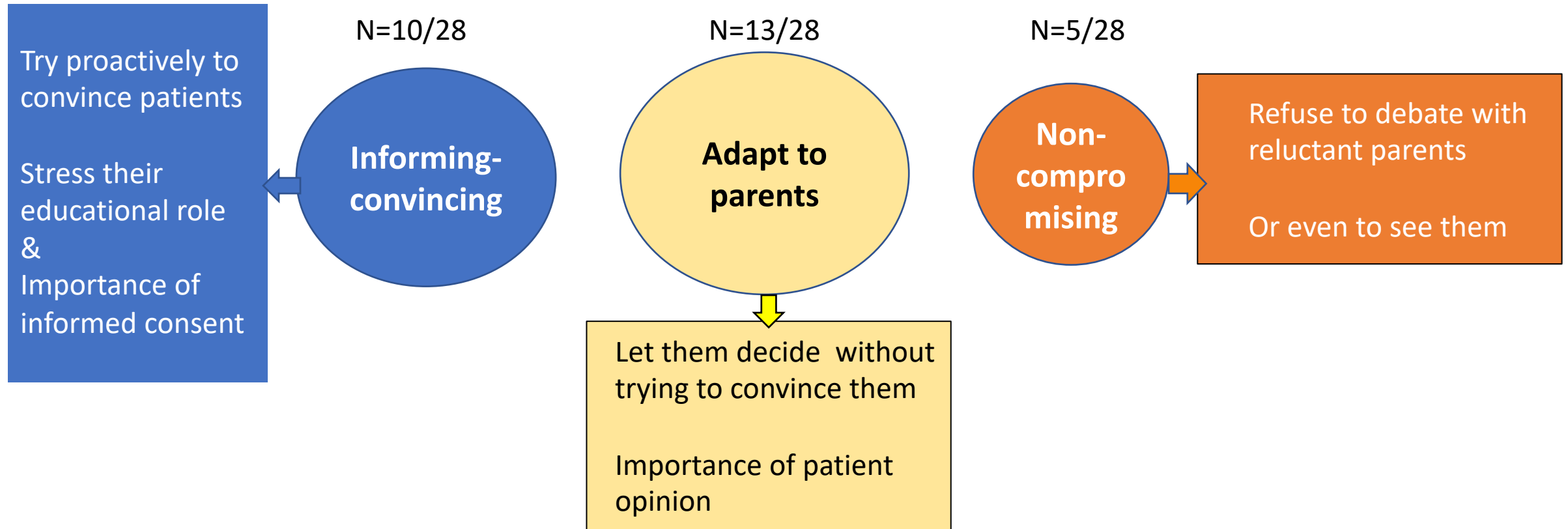
Favorable (19/28)	Skeptics (4/28)	Hesitants (5/28)
« Pro-vaccine »: only acceptable position	Favourable to vaccination in general	Difficult to form an opinion
Favorable benefit/risk balance	Lack of transparency of Health Authorities	Similar pro & cons as in the two other groups, less conviction
« Anti-vax » position: irrational	Denounce the marketing campaign of the pharmaceutical industry	Feel lost, inadequately informed
Rely on scientific studies	Pap Smear: more feasible & important	Influenced by public controversy



* GPs, Peadiatricians, Gynecologists

Three types of interactions with parents

(Bouchez 2020, N=28)



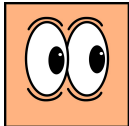
Psychosocial determinants of GPs vaccination behaviors

(Panel 4, quantitative survey, 2020)



Trust, self-efficacy, openness to patients	% agreement
Trust the ministry of health to provide reliable information on the risks and benefits of vaccines	72
Confident that the Ministry of health is not influenced by the pharmaceutical industry	45
Comfortable discussing vaccines with patients very reluctant to vaccination	86
Patients who are hesitant about vaccination have legitimate concerns	65
Think it is counterproductive to try to convince patients to get vaccinated	19

Predictors of GPs HPV recommendation frequency to adolescents (Panel 4, oct-nov 2020)

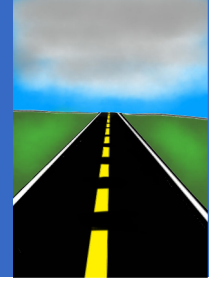


Factors of the Pro-VC-Be questionnaire *	Recommend systematically aOR [95% CI]**
Confidence in vaccines > mean (ref. Not)	1.7 [1.4;2.2]
Commitment & self-efficacy > mean (ref. Not)	2.3 [1.9;2.8]
Confidence in authorities > mean (ref. Not)	1.8 [1.4;2.2]
Openness to patients > mean (ref. Not)	0.7 [0.6;0.9]
Perceived constraints > mean (ref. Not)	0.7 [0.6;0.9]

* Validated instrument measuring Health Professionals vaccine confidence & other psychosocial determinants of their vaccination behaviors

** Logistic regression models adjusted on age & gender

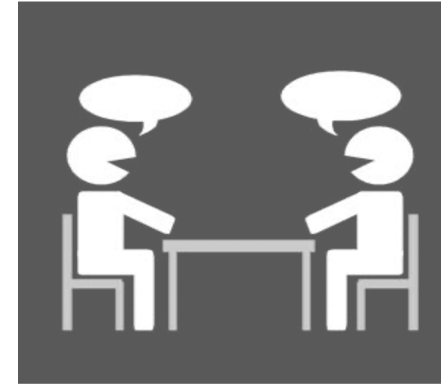
Conclusion



- Assessing & revising the place of immunization in the HCPs' training curricula in France (Kerneis 2017)

- Acquisition/maintenance of immunization knowledge
- Skills to address patients' VH
- Training of trainers (scaling up)

- Implications for future research



- Focusing on patient-provider interactions

- Evaluating impact of HCPs' training on their attitudes, practices

- Testing personalized counselling methods for patients, such as motivational interview

