

Self-sampling as alternative/additional strategy in France

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Summary

- Overview of the situation in France
- What is the place of self-sampling in cervical cancer screening?
- Proposal of vaginal self-sampling as an alternative in France
- What is the place of urine self-sampling?
- Conclusions





Cervical cancer epidemiology

- Cervical cancer (CC) screening over the last 50 years has significantly reduced the incidence and mortality associated with
- → Decrease attributed to the widespread use of CC screening with a Pap smear
- 12th highest cancer of the woman in France
 - 2,900 new cases / year
 - 1100 deaths / year



Santé Publique France. Bulletin épidémiologique hebdomadaire. 2017

Cervical cancer screening

Regular screening should reduce the incidence by more than 90%

Unsatisfactory screening coverage in France (55-60%)



Why? Barriers to women's participation?

- Various barriers:
 - fear for the speculum examination
 - discomfort with the gynaecological examination
 - * a previous negative experience
 - unequal access to gynaecological follow-up
 - time constraints
 - fear of the result and treatments
 - low perceived risk of CC



3rd French Cancer Plan (2014-2019)

 Extend organized cervical cancer screening (piloted in 13 departments including the Maine et Loire)



- Objectives:
 - to reduce incidence and mortality by 30% in 10 years
 - To achieve 80% screening coverage and to make screening more accessible to vulnerable populations



How to increase CC screening coverage in France?

HPV test as the first screening intention

National organized screening program



HPV self-sampling









Detecting cervical precancer and reaching underscreened women by using HPV testing on self samples: updated meta-analyses

Marc Arbyn, ¹ Sara B Smith, ² Sarah Temin, ³ Farhana Sultana, ^{4,5} Philip Castle, ^{2,6} on behalf of the Collaboration on Self-Sampling and HPV Testing

- Sending self-sampling kits are more effective to reach underscreened populations compared to conventional invitations to have a screening specimen taken by a clinician
- Opt-in strategies where women had to request a self sampling kit were generally not more effective than invitation letters
- Offering self sampling kits generally is more effective in reaching under-screened women than sending invitations

Proposal of vaginal self-sampling as an alternative in France

Performance of vaginal self-sampling

HPV DNA testing on a self-taken vaginal sample is as accurate to detect cervical precancer as HPV testing on a clinician-taken sample

■ French study offering vaginal self-sampling at home in France
Vaginal self-sampling is a cost-effective way to increase participation
in a cervical cancer screening program



Proposal of vaginal self-sampling as an alternative in France

Since 2019: vaginal self-sampling should be offered to women who are not regularly screened in France

Self-sampling kit available from medical laboratories in France



- Benefits of urine: less invasive and might be even more acceptable
- Performances of urine sample:
 - → Pathak's meta-analysis: excellent sensitivity and specificity for the HPV detection in urine
 - → Better sensitivity on the first stream urine
 - → Excellent sensitivity in predicting lesions ≥ Cervical intraepithelial neoplasia 2



Experience feedback in the Maine et Loire department (France):
 HPV urinary test as an alternative method for women reluctant to cervical smear

CapU 1 & 2 studies

- ❖ 5000 patientes (40-65 ans)
- who did not undergo a Papsmear during the last 3 years

Home-based urinary HPV DNA testing in women who do not attend cervical cancer screening clinics

Alexandra Ducancelle a,*, Justine Reiser a, Adeline Pivert a, Hélène Le Guillou-Guillemette a, Anne Sophie Le Duc-Banaszuk b, Françoise Lunel-Fabiani a







CapU3 study: To offer urinary HPV testing as an alternative method to 13,535 women aged 35-65

13,535 letters were sent to propose urinary HPV test



Self-sampling at home







- Inclusion criteria:
 - Living in the Maine et Loire region (West region), France
 - Who had not had a cervical smear over the past 7 years and after 4 reminders



- CapU3 study: results
 - → Response rate: 18.5 %
 - 13,535 letters sent / 2,394 samples received
 - → After applying exclusion criteria: 15.4 %
 - 1,915 patients were included
 - → Good gynecological follow-up after a positive urinary HPV testing (92.1 %)



Conclusions about self-sampling

Self-sampling in France

- A tool to better compliance of women and to improve acceptability
- Additional strategy to organized screening program in France
- Vaginal self-sampling as an alternative (since 2019)
- Urine self-sampling?
- Sending at home may generate higher participation rates
- Cancer Plan 2021-2025:
 - To achieve 70% screening coverage
 - Evaluation of self-testing devices
- Reduced costs for the health care organization





Thank you for your attention



- Virology Laboratory Team
- UPRES EA 3859, Université d'Angers
 - → Pr A. Ducancelle
 - → Dr A. Pivert



- CRCDC Pays de la Loire team:
 - → Dr A.S. Le Duc Banaszuk



- Other collaborators:
 - Sciensano, Belgium (Dr M. Arbyn, H. De Pauw)
 - Laboratoire BePsyLab, Université d'Angers (Dr Franck Rexand-Galais)
- Fundings:



- → La Ligue contre le Cancer
- Institut National du Cancer





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