

Working Group on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunization

# Introduction and Questions for SAGE's Consideration

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Rakesh Aggarwal, SAGE member  
SAGE meeting, 23-25 October 2018

# HPV vaccine: Current WHO recommendations (2017)

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‘... primary target population for HPV vaccination is girls aged 9–14 years, prior to becoming sexually active.’

‘Vaccination targeting multiple age cohorts of girls aged between 9 and 18 years at the time of HPV vaccine introduction would result in faster and greater population impact than vaccination of single age cohorts...’

‘...a 2-dose schedule with a 6-month interval between doses is recommended for individuals receiving the first dose before 15 years of age...

Weekly Epidemiological Record 2017; 19: 241-68

# WHO Director-General calls for all countries to take action to help end the suffering caused by cervical cancer

“We have the tools to turn that commitment into a reality.

But crucially, we also have the political commitment. Several countries and UN agencies have already joined forces under the UN Global Joint Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control.

But to succeed, **we need everyone on board**. We must expand our partnership to include anyone and everyone who can help us reach our goal.

That's why today I am **calling for coordinated action globally to eliminate cervical cancer.**”



WHA, May 2018



## **Elimination of cervical cancer**

- **is a priority under the 13th WHO General Programme of Work.**
- **will also contribute to realization of SDG 3.8 (universal health coverage).**
- **Will also contribute to fulfilment of SDG 5 (achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls).**



# Prevention of Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable and treatable forms of cancer

## Pillars of prevention

- HPV vaccination
- Early detection
- Effective management



## WHO GUIDANCE NOTE

Comprehensive cervical cancer prevention and control:  
a healthier future for girls and women



# Questions for SAGE

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1. What are the potential effects and cost-effectiveness of various **vaccination strategies** towards the **achievement of cervical cancer elimination**?
2. What is the **potential contribution of HPV vaccination** towards cervical cancer elimination?
3. What are the **interim goals** that can be achieved through immunization as part of the efforts towards cancer elimination?
4. What **indicators** can be proposed to monitor the accomplishment of these interim goals?
5. What is the **additional research** related to vaccines and immunization needed to attain these goals? And outline potential innovations that may help enhance the achievement of these goals.

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THANK YOU

# Working Group meeting, 27-28 Sep 2018

## Evidence reviewed

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- HPV disease burden in different countries
- HPV vaccine uptake, coverage and barriers (lack information, disease awareness, hesitance and vaccine supply)
- Potential contribution of HPV vaccination towards cervical cancer elimination
- Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness for cervical cancer prevention based on different vaccination strategies (systematic reviews of all evidence and modelling exercise)
  - Girls-only HPV vaccination
  - Gender-neutral HPV vaccination
  - Multiple age-cohort HPV vaccination