



## Human Papillomavirus infection and vaccination: knowledge, attitude and perception among undergraduate men and women healthcare university student in Switzerland

Emilien Jeannot<sup>1, 2</sup>, Manuela Viviano<sup>3</sup>, Marie -Christine Follonier<sup>4</sup>, Christelle Kaech<sup>4</sup>, Nadine Oberhauser<sup>4</sup>, Kabengele Emmanuel<sup>1</sup>, Vassilakos Pierre<sup>5</sup>, Barbara Kaiser<sup>5</sup> and Patrick Petignat<sup>3</sup>

1 Institute of Global Health - Faculty of Medicine, Chemin de Mines 9, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland;

2 Community Psychiatric Service, Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), Lausanne, Switzerland

3 Gynecology Division, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Geneva University Hospitals, Boulevard de la Cluse 30, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland;

4 School of Health Sciences (HESAV), Lausanne, Vaud, Switzerland;

5 Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Route de Ferney 150, 1211 Geneva 2 Switzerland

### Context:

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination program for young girls aged 11-26 years has been introduced in Switzerland in 2008. Since then, important public funds have been committed to the program, requiring an evaluation of its impact on society.

### Objectives:

Objective of this study was to evaluate basic knowledge and beliefs regarding HPV infection and HPV vaccine among undergraduate healthcare male and female students, as well as their attitudes towards HPV vaccine

### Methods:

• Undergraduate women and men (nursing and midwife cursus) attending three School of Health Sciences located in Switzerland

• A total of 427 women and 223 men have completed the web questionnaire, which included questions on their socio-demographic background and about basic knowledge and attitudes toward the HPV infection and vaccination.

### Results:

- Female undergraduate students have a better knowledge of HPV infection than their male counterparts, although there is with a significant gap in knowledge of the disease's mode of transmission and prevention
- 72.6% of female respondents reported having received at least one dose of HPV vaccine versus 31.4% for men respondents

### Conclusions:

The results of this study revealed a poor understanding among undergraduate healthcare men and female students about the HPV infection, its mode of transmission and its prevention.

Our findings highlight the need to improve education on HPV for undergraduate healthcare students in order to increase the disease's awareness.