

WOMEN'S ATTITUDES TO EXTENDING CERVICAL SCREENING INTERVALS

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Introduction

Evidence suggests that cervical screening intervals can be extended and lifetime cervical screening for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccinated women can be reduced.

This study examined UK women's attitudes to extending screening intervals.

Mixed Methods

Phase 1 – Cross sectional survey including HPV and Cervical Screening knowledge questions. N=801 (647 completed in full)

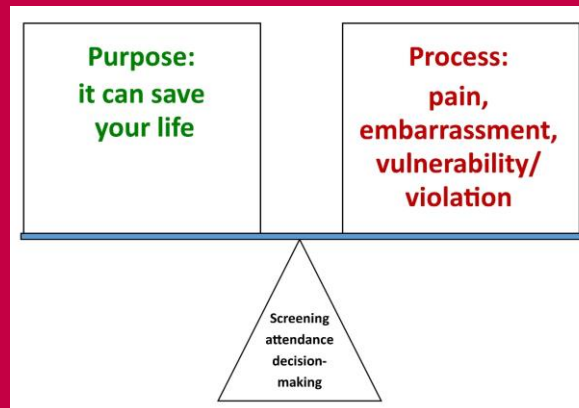
Phase 2- Interviews of a cross section on questionnaire respondents. N=47

Recommendations:

Any changes to cervical screening frequency must ensure public support and trust through a robust public health initiative.

Results

Waiting 5 years for your next cervical screen would:	Not willing to extend interval (n = 269) mean (SD)	Willing to extend interval (n = 298) mean (SD)	t statistic (df)	p value
Cause you to worry about getting cervical cancer	4.36 (0.82)	3.04 (1.11)	15.99 (565)	<0.001
Increase your chances of getting cervical cancer	3.41 (1.13)	2.76 (1.05)	7.11 (563)	<0.001
How likely are you to wait 5 years for your next cervical screen?	1.94 (1.18)	3.64 (1.23)	16.79 (565)	<0.001
How would you rate the average woman's risk of getting HPV?	57.68 (20.93)	47.96 (21.98)	5.36 (560)	<0.001
How would you rate your personal risk of getting HPV?	46.92 (30.34)	35.93 (27.52)	4.45 (547)	<0.001
How would you rate the average woman's risk of getting cervical cancer?	44.07 (22.33)	37.50 (19.40)	3.74 (560)	<0.001
How would you rate your personal risk of getting cervical cancer?	44.15 (26.31)	32.91 (22.01)	5.48 (553)	<0.001



References:

Kola Palmer, S., Rogers, M., Halliday, A., & Rickford, R. (2022) "A lot can happen in five years": Women's attitudes to extending cervical screening intervals. *European Journal of Cancer Care*. 31 (6)
DOI: 10.1111/ecc.13655

Rickford, R., Rogers, M., Halliday, A., Lamprey, P., & Kola-Palmer (2023) Attitudes to reducing cervical screening frequency among UK women: a qualitative analysis *Psycho-Oncology* 32 (5) 721-729

Results

46.1% women are willing to wait 5 years before their next screening if recommended.

41.6% unwilling to wait 5 years.

Only 27.5% of vaccinated women would be willing to have 3 screens in a lifetime

Discussion and Conclusions

Women's perceived risks of cervical screening and attendance are significant factors in attitudes to changes in cervical screening frequency.

Overall women believed any delay to screening could increase the risk of cervical cancer.

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