Screening/Diagnosis in Low Income Countries: Challenges and Successes in El Salvador

Miriam Cremer, MD, MPH
Associate Professor
Cleveland Clinic
Department of Ob/Gyn
Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Disclosures

- Author is on the Speaker Bureau for Merck Pharmaceuticals
- Author receives salary from Basic Health International (BHI) as Organization’s President/Founder
- Qiagen provided donation of careHPV tests but had no part in implementation of the project
- No other conflicts of interest to disclose
Challenges of Cervical Cancer Prevention in El Salvador
Launching CAPE: Cervical Cancer Prevention Program in El Salvador

- Conventional cytology results in up to 80% loss to follow-up rate

- El Salvador MoH partnered with BHI for technical support and received Qiagen donation of HPV screening tests (self-sampling and provider sampling)

- 3-Phase Program eventually targeting 30,000 in 8 Paracentral municipalities
Implementing CAPE: the success of a “screen-and-treat” strategy

- Phase 1: Self-sampling established as feasible ($n=2000$)
- Phase 2: Fewer HPV+ women lost to follow-up in immediate treatment vs. colposcopy (5.2% vs 29.7%, $n = 8000$)
- Phase 3: 17969 women screened, 1078 treated, 299 referred to other treatments
- 80% of eligible women received life-saving treatment
Transferring CAPE to MoH

• Program developed in full collaboration with local stakeholders (education, training, advocacy)

• New national cervical cancer prevention guidelines rolled by MoH in Phase 2

• Full transfer of CAPE to MoH in 2017, plan for country-wide screening program
Global Impact of BHI

• CAPE has attracted interest from around the world, including Zambia, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua

• BHI is the sub-recipient on multiple NIH grants to continue to work on cervical cancer prevention

• Upcoming projects in El Salvador, Peru, Haiti, and Antigua & Barbuda
Changing the Paradigm of Cervical Cancer Prevention in Low Income Countries

- CAPE has been recognized as a model of cervical cancer screening by major public health organizations and funding agencies including the Gates Foundation, the Clinton Health Access Initiative, and the CDC
Summary

• El Salvador is using a cutting-edge paradigm to see and treat women for cervical cancer
• CAPE is going to be taken over by the MOH in 2017
• There are 4 large clinical trials in conjunction with Basic Health International (BHI) demonstrating how an NGO can work well in conjunction with local partners
Thank you!

We gratefully acknowledge funding from:

- Einhorn Family Charitable Trust
- Union for International Cancer Control
- National Cancer Institute
- UICC
- Rising tide Foundation
- PATH