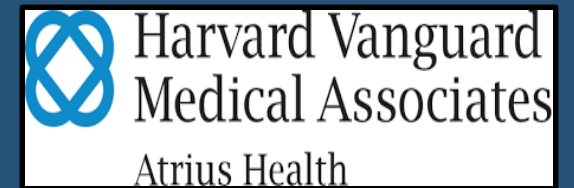


Cervical and Anal Cancer Screening in Transgender Individuals

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*Improving Lives Through the Prevention & Treatment
of Anogenital & HPV-Related Diseases*

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Disclosures

- No financial relationships or conflicts of interest to disclose

Background

- Reproductive health needs of people who have undergone a gender transition are not well-characterized
- Reproductive risk assessment, prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and contraception counseling represents an emerging challenge in this population¹
- Transgender individuals have similar reproductive health needs as their non-transgender peers²
- Transgender men are less likely to be current on cervical cancer screening than non-transgender women³

Background

- Inadequate cancer screening is linked to barriers transgender individuals face in accessing health care⁴
- Limited data to formulate guidelines regarding screening and counseling about sexually transmitted infections⁵
- Further research is needed to determine how to best provide cervical and anal cancer screening for transgender individuals

Screening

- Per ASCCP guidelines
- Screening is not a requirement for testosterone therapy for transgender men⁶
- Pap smears on transgender men have 10x higher incidence of unsatisfactory results
 - Directly correlates with length of time on testosterone⁶
- Transgender women who have had vaginoplasty do not need Pap smears⁷
 - Vagina contains stratified squamous epithelium and are not at risk for vaginal cancers

Study Goals

- Establish rates of cervical and anal cancer screening amongst those surveyed
- Determine if screening was performed appropriately
- Ascertain if the need for screening was addressed by providers
- Evaluate barriers to care

Methods

- Transgender patients age 18 – 64 were asked to take an anonymous online survey
- Survey included:
 - Demographics
 - Reproductive history
 - Cervical, breast, and anal cancer screening
 - Contraceptive use and knowledge
 - Abortion views and needs
 - Access to health care

Demographics

Characteristics	Transgender men (n=158)	Transgender women (n=24)
Age (mean, SD)	29.8 (9.95)	38.9 (15.9)
Race (n=157)		
White	82 (83.7)	21 (91.3)
Black	6 (6.12)	2 (8.7)
Other	14 (14.3)	2 (8.7)
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	14 (14.3)	1(4.2)
Non-hispanic	84 (85.7)	23 (95.8)
Insurance		
None	10 (10.1)	3 (12.5)
Medicare	5 (5.05)	4 (16.7)
Medicaid/Public/National	14 (14.1)	3 (12.5)
Private Insurance	70 (70.7)	14 (58.3)
Education (n=150)		
Some high school	2 (2.02)	0 (0)
Graduated high school	44 (44.4)	10 (41.7)
Graduated college	37 (37.4)	10 (41.7)
Post-graduate	16 (16.6)	4 (16.7)

Results

	Transgender women (n=7)	Transgender men (n=44)
Pelvic Exam	2 (28.6)	31 (70.5)
Pap smear before hysterectomy	N/A	29 (65.9)
Pap smear after hysterectomy	N/A	5 (11.4)
Pap smear of neovagina	0(0)	N/A
Anal pap smear	0(0)	1 (2.27)
Anal exam	2(28.6)	4 (9.1)

Results

- Providers discussed a need for cervical pap smears with 60% of transgender men
- Providers discussed a need for anal pap smears with 11% of transgender men
- Providers did not discuss need for anal pap smears with transgender women

Results- barriers to care

Barriers	Transgender men (n=79)	Transgender women (n=11)
Cost	67 (84.8)	11 (100)
Access	46 (58.2)	6 (54.6)
Stigma	39 (49.3)	7 (63.6)
Discrimination	28 (35.4)	4 (36.4)
Other	2 (2.5)	0 (0)

Conclusion

- Many transgender people face barriers to care that can limit their ability to access screening for cervical and anal cancer
- Educational interventions for both physicians and patients are needed to ensure appropriate screening and follow up are performed for this patient population

Limitations

- Small sample size- especially transgender women
- Though described in the survey, unknown if people are reporting pap smears versus pelvic exams
- Uncertain if screening not performed because of barriers to care or lack of knowledge/comfort level of physicians
- More information needed on history of cervical dysplasia and risks for anal dysplasia to determine if they are being screened appropriately
- Need better representation of those that are non-binary

To look forward to..

- Self-collected vaginal samples for HPV

Thank you

ON THE TRANSGENDER SPECTRUM & BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-64

One-time anonymous online survey

You may be eligible to participate if you are:

- On the transfeminine or transmasculine spectrum
- Can speak/read English
- Between the ages of 18 to 64

We are looking for participants on the transgender spectrum to take part in a confidential, one-time online survey. The purpose of this study is to look at healthcare needs and barriers for those going through a gender transition. No information that could identify you will be collected. You will not be paid for taking part in this survey. Your completion of the survey will be considered your permission to participate.

To complete this online survey, go to : <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FF8MBCT>

For more information on this research study, or to see if you are eligible, please contact **Lauren Abern, MD** at lauren_abern@atriushealth.org



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