

# Evaluation of Knowledge and Attitude Toward HPV and Vaccination Among Medical Staff, Medical Students, and Community Members in Fujian Province

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**Purpose:** To evaluate the level of human papilloma virus (HPV)-related knowledge and vaccination willingness of people in Fujian Province, and to explore the factors influencing doctors' recommendation of HPV vaccine.

**Methods:** We conducted two cross-sectional surveys in Fujian Province. The study cohort included 248 medical staff and medical students and 1001 community members. Descriptive statistics were used to identify the general demographics of the participants, along with their knowledge and attitudes regarding HPV and vaccination. Analyses were conducted to identify factors associated with willingness to vaccinate and willingness to recommend vaccination.

**Results:** The level of HPV knowledge in Fujian province was found to be low, but more than 80% of participants would like to accept HPV vaccine. Medical staff had a higher willingness to recommend HPV vaccine than students (OR= 4.696, CI: 2.698-8.175), which may be related to work experience and acceptance of vaccine price but not to knowledge level.

**Conclusion:** Knowledge of HPV in our community population appears to be lower than that in other regions in China. We suggest that a lack of knowledge may not be the main factor affecting the willingness to vaccinate, but we still needed to raise the level of knowledge about HPV to prevent misunderstandings. When the level of knowledge is high, education and per capita household income are not important factors influencing the willingness to vaccinate; only acceptance of vaccine prices significantly affects the willingness to vaccinate. Inclusion of the HPV vaccine in the national immunization program could help to alleviate public concerns regarding the vaccine to change present situation.

**Keywords:** perception, HPV, vaccine, knowledge, recommend

## Introduction

Cervical cancer is the fourth most lethal human malignancy and the leading cause of death among females around the world; with especially high incidence in developing countries.<sup>1</sup> There were roughly 569,847 new cases and 311,365 deaths associated with cervical cancer in 2018 alone.<sup>1</sup> In mainland China, the rate of cervical cancer is estimated to be about 15.4 per 100,000 people, based on 2018 data, with the mortality rate being as high as 6.9 per 100,000.<sup>2</sup> Persistent high-risk human papillomavirus (HR-HPV) infection is a major cause of cervical cancer.<sup>3</sup>

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According to the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO), HPV vaccines are effective prevention for cervical cancer and precancerous cervical lesions caused by carcinogenic HPV infection.<sup>4</sup> Since 2017, three kinds of vaccine have been approved by China's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for primary prevention of cervical cancer.<sup>2</sup> We have estimated that only about 1% of eligible girls and women of appropriate age have been administered the HPV vaccine in mainland China as of the first half of 2019.<sup>5</sup> However, in countries that include the HPV vaccine in their national immunization programs, such as Australia, the rate is as high as 86%.<sup>6</sup> In addition to policy factors that influence vaccination rates, other barriers to vaccination include costs, vaccine availability, and lack of awareness.<sup>7</sup> There are a few reports on the willingness to HPV vaccinate amongst Chinese community populations but do not include medical staff.<sup>8–10</sup> The purpose of this study was to investigate the knowledge about HPV vaccines and willingness to accept or recommend HPV vaccination among medical staff, medical students, and community members in Fujian Province. Results from this study will help us to understand the factors influencing decisions and recommendations made by medical workers regarding vaccines and provide suggestions and evidence for health decision-makers.

## Methods

### Study Design and Population Study Design

Two cross-sectional surveys were conducted in 2016–2019 and compiled for summary analysis. Of the 68 counties in Fujian Province, 7 counties were selected randomly for a paper survey of community members with the assistance of the local Maternity and Children's Health Hospital.<sup>7</sup> There were 1001 young women in the community who volunteered to participate in the study and these data were used for secondary analysis.<sup>7</sup> The remainder of the data was across-sectional survey of medical staff and medical students in the Fujian Province of China conducted between April and July 2019. For this study, medical staff was defined as individuals qualified to deliver healthcare services (ie, doctors, nurses, pathologists, pharmacists, radiologists, and laboratory physicians). A 41-question questionnaire was prepared based on previously published questionnaires.<sup>7,8</sup> The main content of the interviews included: (1) Characteristics; (2) Knowledge about HPV and HPV vaccination; (3) Reasons for willingness or unwillingness to be vaccinated and accepted cost; (4)

Factors associated with willingness to promote HPV vaccination, etc. The section investigating awareness of HPV consisted of six closed questions that could be answered "yes", "no", or "not clear" that assessed the respondent's knowledge of HPV. The frequencies and percentages of accurate responses were tabulated.

The online questionnaires were distributed through the mobile app WeChat. With sampling based on convenience, participants completed and submitted the questionnaire via mobile telephone. Each submitted questionnaire contained information, such as code, date, and time spent to complete the questionnaire, to ensure authenticity, validity, and completeness.

Random sampling among healthcare professionals was not feasible given the financial and time limitations of the study. The healthcare professionals included medical staff from various regions of Fujian Province and medical students from Fujian Medical University. Medical students were undergraduate in their 4–5 grade or postgraduate in their 1–3 grade (would graduate in 2020–2023). We also selected lectures to invite the healthcare professionals to complete the questionnaire anonymously. Obtain informed consent by written explanation and oral communication prior to data collection. Subjects were gender-neutral, participated voluntarily, and independently completed the questionnaire.

### Data Analysis

A total of 1281 questionnaires were received, 5 participants were excluded from the study because their work did not conform to healthcare professionals inclusion criteria and 27 participants were excluded because of monitoring problems. The overall validity rate of participants was 97.5%. The healthcare professionals received no financial incentives for their participation. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 19.0 (IBM Corp, Armonk, New York). The primary outcome measured in this study were HPV knowledge, intention to receive the HPV vaccine, and intention to recommend HPV vaccination. Descriptive statistics were used to identify the general demographics of the participants, along with their knowledge and attitudes regarding HPV and vaccination. To compare the medical staff, medical students, and community attitudes toward HPV vaccination, Pearson's correlations and Fisher's exact tests were used. A P value <0.05 was considered statistically significant. Calculate the chi-square and odds ratios of the factors affecting the willingness of medical personnel to recommend HPV vaccines. Ethical approval was obtained from the Fujian Provincial

Maternity and Children's Hospital, an affiliated hospital of Fujian Medical University (approval number: 2016–019).

## Results

### Participant Characteristics

A summary of the participants' characteristics is provided in [Table 1](#) (more complete demographic characteristics in [supplementary Table 1](#)). Participants were divided into three groups: medical staff, medical students, and community members. The mean age of the community, medical student, and medical staff participants was  $29.5 \pm 3.3$ ,  $24.0 \pm 2.9$ , and  $38.4 \pm 8.4$  years, respectively. Nearly all of respondents were female (96.4%) and 61.2% were citizens. The vast majority of healthcare professionals (97.2%) had achieved at least junior college education, compared to only 45% of the community population who had a comparable level of education. The two data sets were largely mutually exclusive, as they

were sourced from different populations. The distribution of family per capita monthly income in each group was different, with the majority of medical staff and the community earning ¥3001–5000, whereas the per capita income of medical students was mostly below ¥3,000 yuan.

### Knowledge of HPV and HPV Vaccination

Details of the respondents' knowledge of HPV are reported in [Table 2](#). Six items were thought to be related to HPV knowledge; univariate analysis found that the differences among the three groups were statistically significant. Among the community population, 44.9% expressed “Knows about HPV”, but actually their knowledge was weak: 13.8% of them had just heard the name and only 30.7% could link HPV to sexually transmitted diseases. On questions regarding HPV-related knowledge, medical staff and students performed better than the community population ( $P < 0.001$ ). There was no difference in the performance of medical

**Table 1** Demographic Characteristics of Participants

Characteristics*		Medical Staff <sup>a</sup> (A) N=146 (%)	Medical Student (B) N=102	Community Population (C) N=1001	P(A,B, C)	P(A, B)	P(A, C)	P(B, C)
Age range (years)	≤ 25 26–30 31–35 36–40 ≥41	5(3.4) 32(21.9) 22(15.1) 15(10.3) 72(49.3)	87(85.3) 15(14.7) 0(0.0) 0(0.0) 0(0.0)	122(12.2) 433(43.3) 446(44.6) 0(0.0) 0(0.0)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Gender	Male Female	15(10.3) 131(89.7)	30(29.4) 72(70.6)	0(0.0) 1001(100.0)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Education	Master and above Undergraduate/ Junior college High school/ Technical secondary school Junior middle school Primary School Illiterate	13(8.9) 127(87.0) 6(4.1) 0(0.0) 0(0.0) 0(0.0) 0(0.0)	42(41.2) 59(57.8) 1(1.0) 0(0.0) 0(0.0) 0(0.0) 0(0.0)	15(1.5) 435(43.5) 297(29.7) 227(22.7) 24(2.4) 3(0.3)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Birthplace	Metropolitan Rural area	111(76.0) 35(24.0)	57(55.9) 45(44.1)	596(59.5) 405(40.5)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.526
Average family income <sup>b</sup> (per capita monthly)	<¥3000 ¥3001–5000 ¥5001–8000 ≥¥8000	16(11.0) 59(40.4) 38(26.0) 33(22.6)	43(42.2) 28(27.5) 18(17.6) 13(12.7)	223(22.3) 427(42.7) 203(20.3) 148(14.8)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>

**Notes:** <sup>a</sup>Medical staff include doctors, nurses, pathologists, pharmacists, radiologists and laboratory physicians. <sup>b</sup>¥=Yuan (China). Bold formatting means statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). \*More complete demographic characteristics in [supplementary Table 1](#).

**Table 2** Knowledge About HPV and HPV Vaccination Among the Participants Demographic

Knowledge Question (Correctly Answered,%)	Medical Staff <sup>a</sup> (A) N=145*	Medical Student (B) N=98*	Community Population (C) N=449*	P(A,B, C)	P(A, B)	P(A, C)	P(B, C)
Knows about HPV*	145(99.3)	98(96.1)	449(44.9)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.162 <sup>b</sup>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
When HPV is mentioned, you will think of (multi-choice):							
Sexually transmitted diseases	65(44.8)	59(60.2)	138(30.7)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>0.026</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Genital warts	82(56.6)	64(65.3)	144(32.1)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.184	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Cervical cancer	138(95.2)	96(98.0)	346(77.1)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.320 <sup>b</sup>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
HIV (wrong answer)	126(86.9)	93(94.9)	410(91.3)	0.093	<b>0.048</b>	0.146	0.307
No knowledge about HPV(wrong answer)	145(100.0)	98(100.0)	449(86.9)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.309	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Knows that men can be infected by HPV	141(97.2)	90(91.8)	225(50.1)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.072 <sup>b</sup>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
How is the HPV transmitted?							
Sexual contact	53(36.6)	51(52.0)	185(41.2)				
Indirect contact	1(0.7)	0(0.0)	7(1.6)				
Both (correct answer)	91(62.8)	46(46.9)	175(39.0)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>0.018</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.173
Not clear	0(0.0)	1(1.0)	81(18.0)				
What is the prevalence of the HPV in the population?							
More than 70%	24(16.6)	11(11.2)	39(8.7)				
50-70%	41(28.3)	22(22.4)	68(15.1)				
30-50%	33(22.8)	26(26.5)	83(18.5)				
Less than 30% (correct answer)	34(23.4)	17(17.3)	73(16.3)	0.141	0.266	0.062	0.880
Not clear	13(9.0)	22(22.4)	186(41.43)				
What are the risks of HPV infection?							
High risk (correct answer)	105(72.4)	62(63.3)	345(77.0)	<b>0.019</b>	0.158	0.316	<b>0.007</b>
Low risk	35(24.1)	27(27.6)	22(4.9)				
No risk	0(0.0)	3(3.1)	1(0.2)				
Not clear	5(3.4)	6(6.1)	80(17.9)				

**Notes:** \*Denotes the number of the participants who had heard of HPV would answered the below questions. Bold formatting means statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

<sup>a</sup>Medical staff include doctors, nurses, pathologists, pharmacists, radiologists and laboratory physicians. <sup>b</sup>More than 20% of cells in this subtable have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

staff and medical students, except for on the questions “How is the HPV transmitted?” on which medical staff performed better than students ( $P < 0.05$ ). We found that a lot of medical staff and students involved in the study did not know that HPV could be transmitted through direct or indirect contact, and only 62.8% and 46.9%, respectively, answered correctly. In addition, there is not enough knowledge on the issue of HPV infection rate (only 17.9% of people answered correctly, and most respondents overestimated the infection rate).

## Vaccination Willingness and Reasons

In this survey, the intention to receive the HPV vaccine was highest among medical staff (91.8%), followed by

medical students (90.2%) and the wider community (83.6%). Interestingly, there was a significant difference in the willingness of medical staff and the community to vaccinate, but the difference between the community and medical students was not statistically significant. The vast majority (79.8%) of the community population was willing to pay less than ¥500 for the vaccine, while half of the medical staff would pay more than ¥500. The acceptance of vaccine prices by medical students was between the other two groups, with nearly 60% expecting the vaccine price to be less than ¥500. In addition, about 10% of medical staff or medical students refused to receive the HPV vaccine, compared to 16.3% in the community.

The reasons determining the willingness to vaccinate were different between the three groups, with medical staff selecting “Doubts on the source” and “Vaccination causes risks” most frequently, medical students choosing “Vaccines are too expensive” most frequently, and “Not yet widely used” selected most often by the community members. The majority (85.2%) of respondents expressed their willingness to be vaccinated, and almost 81.5% of the respondents said they believed HPV vaccination would be beneficial. Other common reasons given were “Worried about HPV infection” and “Worried about cervical cancer”. Relatively few people indicated “Worry about genital warts” as a reason for vaccination.

## Willingness of the Medical Staff and Medical Student to Recommend HPV Vaccination

For this analysis, we put healthcare professionals who were neutral, opposed, or unclear about the recommended vaccine

in the same category— will not actively recommend the vaccine. In our survey, 63.7% of medical staff indicated their willingness to recommend vaccines, and the variables that influenced the decision to recommend HPV vaccination are shown in Table 3.

We first screened the influencing factors with a one-way ANOVA and calculated their odds ratio (OR). There was a significant correlation between the willingness to vaccinate with HPV vaccine and the recommended willingness of HPV vaccine ( $p=0.002$ , OR: 4.314 (1.687–11.032)). The willingness of women to recommend HPV vaccination was twice as high as that of men. Medical staff were more willing to recommend vaccines than medical students [OR: 4.696 (2.698–8.175)]. With the increase in professional titles, the willingness of medical staff to recommend HPV gradually increased; deputy chief physicians were 11 times more likely than interns (medical students) to recommend vaccination. Although the number of chief physicians in the cohort was small, the proportion of those willing to recommend vaccination was as high as 100%. Similar results also appear in terms of age. People

**Table 3** Reasons for Willing and Unwilling to Be Vaccinated and Accepted Cost

Item	Medical Staff <sup>a</sup> (A) N=146	Medical Student (B) N=102	Community Population (C) N=1001	P(A,B,C)	P(A,B)	P(A,C)	P(B,C)
Willing to take the HPV vaccine	134(91.8)	92(90.2)	838(83.7)	<b>0.012</b>	0.821	<b>0.013</b>	0.114
Reasons for unwilling to be vaccinated	12(8.2)	10(9.8)	163(16.3)	<b>&lt;0.001<sup>b</sup></b>	0.073 <sup>b,c</sup>	<b>&lt;0.001<sup>b,c</sup></b>	<b>&lt;0.001<sup>b,c</sup></b>
I do not have risk	4/12	4/10	51/163				
Do not think vaccination works	1/12	2/10	19/163				
It has not been widely used	5/12	2/10	112/163				
Vaccination causes risks	6/12	1/10	58/163				
Doubts on the source	6/12	0/10	27/163				
The vaccine is expensive	4/12	8/10	/				
The process of vaccination is cumbersome	3/12	2/10	/				
Reasons for willing to be vaccinated	134(91.8)	92(90.2)	838(83.7)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.076 <sup>c</sup>	<b>&lt;0.001<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>0.004<sup>c</sup></b>
Self benefit	118/134	78/92	671/838				
Fear of infecting HPV	69/134	53/92	391/838				
Fear of cervical cancer in yourself/your partner	70/134	40/92	393/838				
Fear of having genital warts	40/134	26/92	222/838				
Accepted costs (3 does)	146 (100.0)	102(100.0)	1001(100.0)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.264	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<¥200	26/146	21/102	416/1001				
¥200-500	46/146	38/102	382/1001				
¥500-1000	41/146	30/102	126/1001				
>¥1000	33/146	13/102	77/1001				

**Notes:** <sup>a</sup>Medical staff include doctors, nurses, pathologists, pharmacists, radiologists and laboratory physicians. <sup>b</sup>More than 20% of cells in this subtable have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid. <sup>c</sup>Likelihood ratio for a Chi-square test. Bold formatting means statistically significant ( $p<0.05$ ).



with different recommendation intentions had different average family incomes, but increased income was not linearly related to the willingness to recommend vaccination. Interestingly, there was no correlation between education and willingness to recommend vaccination.

## Discussion

In the current study, we found that knowledge of HPV is limited in the community at large. Less than half of the community population had heard of HPV, and more than 10% of them said that they had no more knowledge except to know the name. Knowledge of HPV in our community population appeared similarly to other regions in China, and far below what has been reported in other countries,<sup>8,11-13</sup> which could be improved by media outreach. Knowledge of HPV infection and transmission was worse among medical students compared to medical staff. It cannot be ignored that about half of medical staff and students ignored or were unaware that HPV can be transmitted via indirect contact. In New Zealand, only 11% of health practitioners either thought or were not sure whether HPV can be passed by genital skin-to-skin contact.<sup>14</sup> This is a stark reminder of the lack of education regarding HPV in China, and it is urgent to improve the knowledge level of the community. Prior to this, the HPV knowledge that medical staff lacks should be targeted to improve. A Swedish study suggested that 68.3% of patients prefer to get preventive knowledge about HPV from doctors, which may be a method that helps to increase awareness in China.<sup>3</sup> More education is needed to ensure that health professionals and the public do not inadvertently spread misinformation.<sup>15</sup>

Data from a multicenter study of the Chinese population showed that both HPV type 16 and 18 vaccines prevented up to 84.5% of cervical cancer and 72% of high-grade cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. Because the HPV vaccine has not received financial support from the Chinese government, vaccination depends on the willingness of age-appropriate girls and women to accept the vaccine.<sup>16</sup> In our survey, we found a significant difference in the level of knowledge of medical staff and community members. But there was no significant difference in the willingness of community members and medical students to vaccinate, both groups were less willing to vaccinate than medical staff. This suggests that a lack of knowledge in younger populations (Table 4) may not be the main factor affecting the willingness to vaccinate. Because we cannot rule out the impact of age on the willingness of medical staff and community members to accept HPV vaccination, the importance

of knowledge of HPV cannot be accurately estimated. To further explore the factors affecting the willingness to vaccinate, we selected doctors and medical students with no significant differences in knowledge background. As there was no difference in the willingness of these groups to vaccinate, we considered the two groups as a single population and compared that combined population with factors that also exist in the community (Table 5). From our results, we can conclude that when the level of knowledge is high, education level and household income are not important factors affecting the willingness to vaccinate. Only the price of the vaccine had a significant effect on willingness to vaccinate, which is consistent with other surveys.<sup>17</sup>

Studies have shown that physician recommendation is an important and consistent predictor of vaccine uptake.<sup>18</sup> A study in New Zealand reported that 96.5% of health workers agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend the HPV vaccine, compared to just 63% in our study.<sup>14</sup> Further analysis (Table 4) found that medical staff had a higher willingness to recommend vaccination than medical students and that likelihood to recommend vaccination was linearly correlated to both job title and age. Increases in age and title are typically associated with a greater degree of clinical knowledge and experience. Those medical staff who are willing to get vaccinated have a higher tendency to recommend the vaccine. For healthcare professional, women were more willing to recommend vaccination than men. Medical staff accepted a higher price for the vaccine than community members, most likely because of their medical background. However, the majority of people indicated an acceptable budget for the vaccine that is lower than the lowest-priced vaccine in the Chinese market (Cervarix, GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals SA, Rixensart, Belgium; ¥1827/3 doses).

There are inherent limitations associated with the use of questionnaires with self-reported information, so conclusions and claims based on self-reported data may contain bias. Social expectations may affect the sample. Even if the questionnaire is anonymous and the project is carefully designed, participants may answer questions in a socially desirable manner. Second, almost all the participants in our study were women. Women who are willing to receive the HPV vaccine are more likely to respond to the survey than women who are not willing to receive the HPV vaccine. This factor will lead to overestimation of HPV-related knowledge and vaccination willingness. The analysis can only provide statistically relevant evidence between explanatory variables and questions of common interest. Although online surveys have a lower response rate than paper survey forms, they are more cost-effective and have fewer missing values.<sup>19</sup> Fourth, the questionnaire for community populations was collected in

**Table 4** Factors Associated with Willing to Promote HPV Vaccination Among the Medical Staff and Medical Student

Variables	Willing to Promote (N=248)				Chi-Square	P	Code OR
	n <sub>yes</sub> =158	%	n <sub>no</sub> =90	%			
Age range (years)					36.516	<b>&lt;0.001<sup>a</sup></b>	
≤25	42	45.7	50	54.3			
26–30	26	55.3	21	44.7			1.474(0.727–2.987)
31–35	14	63.6	8	36.4			2.083(0.797–5.445)
36–40	11	73.3	4	26.7			3.274(0.971–11.041)
≥41	65	90.3	7	9.7			<b>11.054(4.581–26.678)</b>
Gender					4.469	<b>0.035</b>	
Male	22	48.9	23	51.1			
Female	136	67.0	67	33.0			<b>2.122(1.104–4.080)</b>
Education					2.228	0.518	
Master and above	32	58.2	23	41.8			-
Undergraduate	91	63.6	52	36.4			-
Junior college	29	67.4	14	32.6			-
Technical secondary school	6	85.7	1	14.3			-
Profession					31.716	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	
Medical student	44	43.1	58	56.9			
Medical staff	114	78.1	32	21.9			<b>4.696(2.698–8.175)</b>
Average family income					9.485	<b>0.023</b>	
<¥3000	30	50.8	29	49.2			
¥3001–5000	62	71.3	25	28.7			<b>2.397(1.202–4.780)</b>
¥5001–8000	32	57.1	24	42.9			1.289(0.618–2.689)
>¥8000	34	73.9	12	26.1			<b>2.739(1.191–6.299)</b>
Willing to receive HPV vaccination					10.620	<b>0.002</b>	
No	7	31.8	15	68.2			
Yes	151	66.8	75	33.2			<b>4.314(1.687–11.032)</b>
Professional Title					36.620	<b>&lt;0.001<sup>a</sup></b>	
No technical titles (Intern physician)	47	44.8	58	55.2			
Resident	31	62.0	19	38.0			<b>2.013(1.011–4.008)</b>
Attending physician	45	81.8	10	18.2			<b>5.553(2.531–12.185)</b>
Associate chief physician	27	90.0	3	10.0			<b>11.106(3.172–38.893)</b>
Chief physician	8	100.0	0	0.0			-

**Notes:** n<sub>0</sub>: Combine people with neutral, ambiguous and negative views into people who do not actively recommend HPV vaccine. Bold formatting means statistically significant. <sup>a</sup>Linear by linear association. <sup>b</sup>Continuity correction. Adash indicates that data are not available.

2016–2017, and knowledge and willingness to vaccinate may have changed in the study population.

This study also has important advantages. This study shows the difference of knowledge about HPV vaccine between community residents and medical staff, and the willingness of medical staff to recommend HPV vaccine. The survey methods used in our study have been adjusted for potential confounding factor and were suitable for specific demographic characteristics. The conclusions may help to improve vaccine coverage to reduce the incidence and death rate of HPV-related diseases.

## Conclusion

In summary, we suggest that a lack of knowledge may not be the main factor affecting the willingness to vaccinate, but there is still ademonstrable lack of awareness of HPV among both healthcare professionals and the wider community. Therefore, efforts are needed to raise the level of knowledge about HPV through general education and to increase awareness to prevent misunderstandings. Our research suggests that when the level of knowledge is high, education and per capita household income are not important factors influencing the

**Table 5** Factors Affecting the Medical Staff and Medical Student Accepting or Rejecting HPV Vaccine

Item	N=248	Do You Want to Be Vaccinated Against HPV ?				Chi-Square	P
		n <sub>yes</sub> =226	%	n <sub>no</sub> =22	%		
Accepted costs (3 does)						10.679	<b>0.020</b>
<¥200 (<US\$29.0)	47	40	17.7	7	31.8		
¥200-500 (US\$29.0–72.4)	84	75	33.2	9	40.9		
¥500-1000(US\$72.4–144.9)	71	65	28.8	6	27.3		
>¥1000(>US\$144.9)	46	46	20.4	0	0.0		
Expectations after vaccination with HPV						0.894	0.859
Not in the future	22	19	9.4	3	13.6		
Not for years	62	56	24.8	6	27.3		
Still possible	155	143	63.3	12	54.5		
Do not know	9	8	3.5	1	4.5		
What are the risks of HPV infection?						6.802	0.63
High risk	168	158	69.9	10	45.5		
Low risk	62	52	23.0	10	45.5		
No risk	3	2	0.9	1	4.5		
Not clear	15	14	6.2	1	4.5		
Education						1.717	0.721
Master and above	55	50	22.1	0	0.0		
Undergraduate	143	131	58.0	5	22.7		
Junior college	43	38	16.8	12	54.5		
Technical secondary school	7	7	3.1	5	22.7		
Average family income						2.740	0.445
<¥3000	59	51	22.6	8	36.4		
¥3001–5000	87	79	35.0	8	36.4		
¥5001–8000	56	53	23.5	3	13.6		
>¥8000	46	43	19.0	3	13.6		

**Note:** Bold formatting means statistically significant.

willingness to vaccinate; only acceptance of vaccine prices significantly affects the willingness to vaccinate. China faces the huge challenge to effectively prevent and control cervical cancer in a short time. Improvements in vaccine coverage require government leadership. Inclusion of the HPV vaccine in the national immunization program could help to alleviate public concerns regarding the vaccine. Furthermore, the cost of the vaccine must be reduced, which is in line with national interests and personal expectations.<sup>20,21</sup>

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## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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