Human papillomavirus among teenage men who have sex with men: implications for HPV vaccination policy

Speaker: Dr Huachun Zou, Research Associate at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW
Venue: Room 305, Level 3, Samuels Building, UNSW upper campus, Randwick
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Time: 12:00-1:00pm (light refreshment is provided)
Enquiries: Nina Mili n.mili@unsw.edu.au
Parking: Available on L5 of the parking station; enter via Gate 11 Botany St, Randwick
Map: http://www.unsw.edu.au/maps/maps.html

ABSTRACT
Human papillomavirus (HPV) is common among men who have sex with men (MSM) and causes anal cancer. The quadrivalent HPV vaccine is effective in preventing infection with HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18; in preventing the development of genital warts in males; and in protecting against anal intraepithelial neoplasia in MSM. Mathematical modeling suggests that HPV vaccination of MSM is likely to be cost effective. A clear understanding of the natural history of HPV among teenage MSM and how this group views HPV vaccination will assist governments in determining whether a universal or selective vaccination policy for the HPV vaccine is most effective. The Human Papillomavirus Infection in Young People Epidemiological Research (HYPER) Study included a cohort of 200 MSM in Melbourne aged 16 to 20 years who were followed 4 times over 12 months. This study aimed to elucidate among teenage MSM: 1) the prevalence, incidence and transmission probability per partnership of anal, penile and oral HPV DNA infection; 2) the sero-prevalence and sero-incidence of HPV; 3) Knowledge of and attitude towards HPV vaccination. This study found early and high HPV prevalence and incidence, and high transmission probability among this young population. These data suggest that the vaccination coverage in MSM will need to be higher than in heterosexuals if the same reductions in HPV are to be realised.

BIOGRAPHY
Dr Huachun Zou, epidemiologist by training, is a research academic at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, the University of New South Wales, working on the Second Australian Study of Health and Relationships. He holds a bachelor’s degree in preventive medicine and a master’s degree in epidemiology and health statistics from China and a PhD in epidemiology and biostatistics from the University of Melbourne. His work focuses on the epidemiology and determinants of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among at-risk populations and interventions aimed at increasing the testing and diagnosis of HIV/STIs. Since 2005 he has been working on projects including sexual behaviours and HIV/syphilis infection among men who have sex with men (MSM) in China, condom use behaviours in female sex workers in China, policies in HIV control among injecting drug users and former commercial plasma donors in China, a liver cancer awareness campaign in the Chinese community in Victoria, human papillomavirus in teenage MSM in Australia and clinic-based interventions aimed at increasing HIV/STI testing among MSM in Australia. He also led a WHO-funded review project in 2013–2014 on viral hepatitis treatment in China.