CERVICAL CANCER IN IRELAND

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DUBLIN, IRELAND

- Capital of Ireland
- Population: 1,345,402 urban, 1.9 million in greater Dublin
- Ireland population: 4 million
- 32,599 square miles (about the size of Indiana)
- Gained independence from England in 1922
- Formerly a Viking establishment
- All speak English but they are taught in Gaelic in school
- Public healthcare with small co-pays
MATER MISERICORDIAE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

- Public hospital opened in 1861
- Level 4 teaching hospital in north Dublin
- Over 600 bed, 85 day beds, 12 operating theaters
- Over last year, treated 21,500 inpatient, 60,000 day pt, 60,000 ED visits
- Gyn-onc team with 5 residents and 4 consultants

National Maternity Hospital

- Opened 1894, Oldest maternity hospital in Ireland
- Employs 820 people
- Delivers over 9,000 babies a year
- 1/12 Irish citizens were born here
- Midwife-run deliveries
CERVICAL CANCER IN IRELAND

• 3rd most common female cancer worldwide
• Approximately 300 new cases per year
• 90 deaths per year
• Screening protocol just began in 2008
  • Way behind USA 1950s start
• Became a topic of interest after Jade Goody, a Big Brother contestant, died of metastatic cervical cancer
  • Sparked a national trend to get pap smears
• HPV vaccine not routinely given until 2010
CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

Ireland

• National screening began 2008
  • CervicalCheck

• Offer free pap smears to 25 to 65 year old Females
  • Every 3 years for 25 to 44
  • Every 5 years for 45 to 60
  • Just test cytology, NOT HPV
  • Abnormal results are sent for colposcopy and HPV testing

United States

• Screening started in 1950s
  • USPSTF 2012
    • 21 to 29 yo every 3 years w/ cytology
    • 30 to 65 yo every 5 years w/ HPV
    • 74% decrease in cervical cancer deaths since screening began
HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS

- HPV is a sexually transmitted disease
- Can cause cervical, anal, oropharyngeal, vulvar, vaginal, and penile cancer
- HPV 16 and 18 cause 70% of cervical cancers
- HPV 6 and 11 cause 90% genital warts
- Gardasil is a quadrivalent vaccine against HPV
  - Targets HPV 6, 11, 16, 18
  - Efficacy trials ongoing but reports that 2/3 decrease in HPV subtypes 6, 11, 16, 18
  - Females 11 to 12 year old are encouraged to get the HPV vaccine in the U.S. and can be given up to 26 years old
    - Males can also be vaccinated
HPV VACCINE IN IRELAND

- 2010 started free vaccination in first year of secondary school
  - Only females, males not included due to money constraints
  - No catch-up schedule due to funding
- Met with public backlash
- R.E.G.R.E.T. support group started
  - Young girls who had adverse effects (fatigue, muscle aches, etc) to vaccine
  - Media attention has focused on their negatives views
  - Leading many parents to refuse vaccination of their children
- 660,000 doses given to 220,000 girls in Ireland
  - Only 1,054 case reports of adverse outcomes
- Study done at the Mater Misericordiae showed of the 38% healthcare providers in their study, only 56% would vaccinate their daughters
PERCEPTIONS OF CERVICAL CANCER

- Ireland is about 84% Catholic
  - Very conservative country
- People are ashamed to admit they have cervical cancer
  - Feel blamed
- View it as a STD that only promiscuous women get
  - Also a reason parents will not allow their children to get HPV vaccine
- Will often hide a family history of gynecological cancer
- Loss of femininity associated with any gyn cancer
- Nurse clinical specialists present in all gyn-oncology clinics to serve as a resource to help them through the struggle
CONCLUSIONS

• Ireland still has a long way to go on cervical cancer screening and prevention

• Social media is to blame for a lot of the current issues

• The first step they need to address is getting physicians in the country to trust the vaccine enough to suggest it to patients

• Address the stigma surrounding cervical cancer
  • Make public aware that most people have HPV at some point in their life but transiently clear it

• Showing people the result of not preventing/treating their cervical cancer by giving pictures/accounts from people with pelvic evisceration
CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

- Both private and public system in Ireland
- Both NMH and the Mater were public
- Rooms had 6 patients in them with a curtain between patients
  - No real respect for patient privacy
- Advantages
  - Low payment
    - $200 for whole hospital admission
    - $80 for ED visit
    - All care provided at local GP’s office, only referred to specialist if indicated
  - High benefits for the best physicians to be in the public system
  - No barriers to access care
- Disadvantages
  - LONG wait times
    - Around 1 year from time of cancer diagnosis until surgery
    - To see a specialist, it may take 6 months
    - 2-3 month wait to get a CT/MRI
    - Could wait in clinic for 2-3 hours since there are no set appointment times
CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Rounded with Endocrine team at Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

• Patients on list with LOS 60-100 days
  • Medically discharged
  • Waiting on placement at facilities
  • Not a lot of ancillary support
  • Only 1/30 patient on their list needed acute treatment
  • Hospital full
    • cancelled surgeries every day because of no beds, but people who were stable were occupying the beds
Wicklow Mountains

Temple Bar, Dublin

Cliffs of Moher
Citations

- Uptodate HPV vaccine