HPV Vaccination -
The Dental Provider Connection

Rosie Wagner, DDS
Founder, Smiles By Rosie Family Dentistry
Co-Chair, Massachusetts Oral HPV Prevention Taskforce
drwagner@smilesbyrosie.com
Disclosures

• I, Dr. Katie-Rose Wagner, have been asked to disclose any significant relationships with commercial entities that are either providing financial support for this program or whose products or services are mentioned during my presentations.
• I have no relationships to disclose.
• I may/will discuss the use of vaccines in a manner not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but in accordance with ACIP recommendations.
Today’s Focus

1. Connection between HPV and oropharyngeal cancers

2. Role of dental providers in cancer screening, cancer prevention, and the patient-provider relationship

3. Overview of the Massachusetts Oral HPV Prevention Taskforce
HPV and Oropharyngeal Cancers

- HPV (primarily HPV16) causes cancers in all genders and ages in oral and pharyngeal tissues:
  - Tonsils
  - Tonsillar crypts
  - Tonsillar pillars
  - Pharyngeal mucosa
  - Uvula
  - Sites associated with squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the mouth
- SCC/oropharyngeal connection

HPV Vaccine Protects Against Oral Cancers and Warts

HPV Vaccine protects against HPV16 and HPV 18

• These strains cause 97% of all HPV-related oropharyngeal cancers\(^1\)
• Prevents pharyngeal and oral warts


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Why Are Dental Professionals Getting Involved?

• Close patient-provider relationships
  – Lasting decades
  – Family dentists treat all ages
  – Different levels of interactions: hygienist, dentist, assistants, etc.

• Already performing SCC cancer screenings
  – Adding **verbal questions** for oropharyngeal cancer symptoms
    • Dysphagia
    • Persistent unilateral sore throat
    • Lymphadenopathy
Why Are Dental Professionals Getting Involved?

- Excellent compliance and frequency
  - Semiannual preventive visits
  - Many dental patients do not report having a PCP
  - Only healthcare home for some people

- Responsibility to practice preventive care

- Great opportunity to educate dentists and hygienists on HPV and HPV vaccination
  - Not part of dental curriculum

- Dentists have great community involvement
Barriers With Dental Providers

• Unable to administer vaccinations
  – Can “host” retail pharmacies

• Patients and dentists not used to immunization discussions in dental setting¹

• No established referral system
  – Following-up after referrals?
  – Where to refer?

Massachusetts Oral HPV Prevention Taskforce

Developed with support and cooperation from:

• MA DPH Immunization Program
• Dana Farber Cancer Institute – HPV workgroup
• Team Maureen
• Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Partners
• Smiles By Rosie Family Dentistry

Goals:

• Provide a central location for information on connections between HPV, HPV-related oropharyngeal cancers and HPV vaccination
• Educate dental providers, patients, and the community
• Coordinate cross-disciplinary curricula among healthcare professionals

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Projects in the last 12 months:

• Partnering with Team Maureen, developed a **Dental HPV Toolkit** that includes patient- and provider-facing pamphlets, referral pads, and posters. Distributed over 300 toolkits and have permanent online hosting for free download.
Projects in the last 12 months (continued):

• Published as the cover article in the Winter 2017 issue of the *Journal of the Massachusetts Dental Society*

• Presented a 3-hour course for 160 attendees of the Yankee Dental Congress

• Presented a table distributing educational materials and toolkits to attendees of the Yankee Dental Congress in 2016 and 2017

• Presented lectures to the North Short District Dental, Cape Cod District Dental Society, and the Charles River Community Health Center
Massachusetts Oral HPV Prevention Taskforce

**Future Projects**

- Lectures planned for the Greater New York Dental Meeting, Rhode Island Dental Association, and New Hampshire Dental Association
- Data from pre- and post-questionnaires from lectures and toolkits
- Funding to expand taskforce
- Multidisciplinary outreach
  - Educating physicians
  - Public-facing curricula, events, and vaccination days

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What Can You Do?

1. Distribute toolkits to physicians and dentists
   - http://teammaureen.org/about/materials/c/680 (or email us for link!)

2. Invite us to lecture to your organization, providers, patients, or community

3. Speak with your own dentist about our efforts and encourage them to get involved and refer for HPV vaccination
What Can You Do?

4. Refer patients for HPV vaccination

5. Join the taskforce

6. Educate the public on the connection between HPV and oropharyngeal cancers
Questions?

Email me any time!

Rosie Wagner, DDS

drwagner@smilesbyrosie.com