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EFFORTS TO INCREASE VISITS OF WOMEN AGED 30-69 YEARS FOR EARLY DETECTION OF CERVICAL CANCER USING THE HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV) DNA METHOD THROUGH HEALTH PROMOTION IN BANDAR LAMPUNG CITY

Zulia Astuti*, Bambang Setiaji, Tubagus Erwin
Public Health Study Program, Faculty of Health, Universitas Mitra Indonesia, Jl. ZA. Pagar Alam No.7, Gedong Meneng, Rajabasa, Bandar Lampung, Lampung 40115, Indonesia
*zuliaastuti26@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Carcinoma (Ca) Cervix or Cervical Cancer is the fourth most common cancer diagnosed in women worldwide. To achieve cervical cancer elimination, World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends screening with a high-performance test, namely the HPV DNA test. Early detection program of cervical cancer among women aged 30-69 are still suboptimal. This is due to various factors, including a lack of public knowledge and negative perceptions of the HPV DNA test, which is considered frightening. Implementing efforts to increase visitation of women aged 30-69 years to carry out early detection of cervical cancer using the HPV DNA method through health promotion. The research is a qualitative research type using in-depth interview techniques and Focus Group Discussions**.** A series of problem-solving strategies have been formulated and implemented in a planned manner based on an educational and participatory approach at the community level. These strategies include: Direct counseling at the integrated health post (Posyandu) level, the use of innovative, interesting and eye catching educational media, mapping and data collection of screening targets, technical preparation through training of health workers, scheduling and cross-sector coordination. Recommendations and follow-up plans were developed based on field findings and community input Collected during the residency. These efforts are expected to strengthen community-based health promotion strategies, improve women's health literacy, and gradually eliminate the negative stigma surrounding HPV DNA testing. With targeted implementation and the involvement of all stakeholders, the cervical cancer early detection program in Bandar Lampung City can be executed more optimally and sustainably.

Keywords: cervical cancer, HPV DNA, Health Promotion

INTRODUCTION

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer diagnosed in women worldwide. An estimated 604,000 new cases and 342,030 deaths occurred globally in 2020. Most deaths from cervical cancer occur in developing countries. In Indonesia, cervical cancer ranks second among cancer cases compared to other types of cancer. 36,633 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer, and more than 21,003 died from the disease in 2020. Most (70%) cancer patients are diagnosed at an advanced stage, making treatment more complex and the probability of a cure lower. Economically, cancer is a catastrophic disease with the second-highest cost from the National Health Insurance (JKN). Cancer costs in 2020 reached 3.5 trillion rupiah, increasing to 4.5 trillion rupiah in 2022 (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, 2024).

Globally, cervical cancer prevention and control efforts continue to be improved through various strategies, including Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and effective screening programs (Release, 2024). One of the main strategies in Cervical Cancer Elimination is screening. To achieve Cervical Cancer Elimination, WHO recommends screening with high-performance tests, namely HPV DNA testing. In response, Indonesia has implemented a Piloting HPV DNA Testing and VIA

(co-testing) program in DKI Jakarta in 2023. The results of this program were 11,287 women screened, of which 599 (5.51%) women were found to be HPV DNA positive. The implementation of the HPV DNA testing and VIA co-testing program will be carried out in stages. In early 2024, this program will be implemented in 16 provinces in Indonesia, namely West Sumatra, South Sumatra, Jambi, Lampung, Banten (Tangerang Regency), DKI Jakarta, West Java (Depok City), DI Yogyakarta, Central Java, West Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, Southeast Sulawesi, North Sulawesi, West Nusa Tenggara, and East Nusa Tenggara. The next stage, the early detection program for cervical cancer using HPV DNA testing and VIA co-testing, will be implemented nationally in all provinces and regencies/cities in Indonesia (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, 2024). Data from the Basic Health Research (Riskesdas) periodically provide an overview of cancer prevalence and associated risk factors in Indonesia. This data indicates that women's awareness and participation in screening programs remains low, contributing to the high incidence of advanced cervical cancer at diagnosis. The 2023 Indonesian Health Survey (SKI) also provides important information on public health behaviors, including early cancer detection practices. In 2023, cervical cancer screening coverage in Indonesia reached only 7.02%, out of the target of 70% (Indarti, 2023). This low screening coverage is due to various factors, including lack of information, limited access to health services, cost, and fear or stigma associated with pelvic exams.

Lampung Province, as part of Indonesia, also faces similar challenges in cervical cancer control. Epidemiological data at the provincial level shows positive VIA cases from 2022 – 2023 saw a significant spike, with 266 positive IVA cases in 2022 and 4,947 (2.7%) positive IVA cases in 2023. The highest number of cases was in Bandar Lampung, with 3,926 (6,819.45%) positive IVA cases and 61 (580.1%) suspected cervical cancer cases referred (Lampung Health Profile 2023, 2024). This indicates that the incidence of cervical cancer remains relatively high due to the large number of screening targets across all regencies/cities. Despite various efforts by local governments and health organizations, cases are undeniably likely to continue to rise if effective prevention efforts are not implemented.

In Bandar Lampung City, the capital of Lampung Province, cervical cancer is also a major concern. In 2024, the number of women aged 30–69 in Bandar Lampung City was 264,835, with the target coverage of HPV DNA testing reaching 49,400, divided into 5 regencies/cities, 4 regencies/cities each received a target of 5000, for Bandar Lampung City with the largest target of 29,400, which has implemented Early Detection of Cervical Cancer with HPV DNA testing amounted to 3833 or 7.76% (Bandar Lampung City Health Office, 2024). Data from the Bandar Lampung City Health Office shows that the level of visits by women aged 30-69 years for early detection of cervical cancer is still not optimal. This is caused by various factors, including a lack of public knowledge and negative perceptions of HPV DNA testing which is considered scary, limited resources, and challenges in reaching vulnerable populations.

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive research style. This study is qualitative with a descriptive analytical approach, using data triangulation through in-depth interviews, observations, surveys, and existing reports. The study was conducted from May 15 to June 24, 2025, in Bandar Lampung City. This research can be the basis for developing a more effective health promotion strategy and is able to increase visits by women aged 30–69 years in early detection of cervical cancer through the HPV DNA method. For 2025, the target of screening is

8,560 people distributed to 31 community health centers. However, annual achievements are still low, such as in 2024, which only reached 3,833 or 7.76% of women aged 30–69 years who underwent HPV DNA testing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Early detection coverage is still low (<1%), predisposing, enabling, and reinforcing factors influence the examination; the location of the community health center in areas with high risk of STIs. Cervical cancer cases increase every year; most patients come at an advanced stage; early detection is important to reduce mortality, age at marriage, parity, education, occupation, and number of marriages have a significant effect on the incidence of cervical cancer; age is the most dominant, Education increases knowledge and skills for early detection of cervical cancer; most women of childbearing age do not know the ROSE method, Negative attitudes influence the decision of women of childbearing age to undergo IVA examination; most respondents are highly educated and at risk of cervical cancer. Observations at the Bandar Lampung City Health Office show that the level of visits by women aged 30-69 years for early detection of cervical cancer is still not optimal. This is caused by various factors, including lack of public knowledge and negative perceptions of HPV DNA examinations which are considered frightening, limited resources, and challenges in reaching vulnerable populations. In addition, due to the lack of advocacy and socialization, especially to policy makers, women of childbearing age as the target group have feelings of fear / embarrassment to undergo HPV DNA examination. In 2025, Early Detection of Cervical Cancer using the HPV DNA method will not be implemented again, because we are still waiting for the distribution of the Collecting Kit from the Ministry of Health which will be used in taking samples. A series of problem-solving strategies have been formulated and implemented in a planned manner based on an educational and participatory approach at the community level. These strategies include: Direct counseling at the integrated health post (Posyandu) level, the use of innovative, interesting and eye catching educational media, mapping and data collection of screening targets, technical preparation through training of health workers, scheduling and cross-sector coordination

Epidemiological data at the Lampung provincial level shows a significant spike in positive VIA cases from 2022 to 2023. In 2022, there were 266 positive VIA cases and in 2023, there were 4,947 (2.7%) positive VIA cases. The highest number of cases was in Bandar Lampung, with 3,926 (6,819.45%) positive VIA cases and 61 (580.1%) suspected cervical cancer referrals. This indicates that the incidence of cervical cancer remains relatively high due to the large number of screening targets across all regencies/cities. Despite various efforts by local governments and health organizations, cases are certain to continue to rise if effective prevention efforts are not implemented. In accordance with the National Action Plan for Cervical Cancer 2023-2030, to achieve the 2027 target of 70%, the next stage, through the 2024 Additional Budget, is planned to introduce early detection of cervical cancer using the HPV DNA test method in all provinces. In Bandar Lampung City, as the capital of Lampung Province, cervical cancer is also a major concern. In 2024, in Bandar Lampung City, there will be 264,835 women aged 30-69 years old, with a target coverage of 49,400 HPV DNA tests divided across 5 regencies/cities, with 4 regencies/cities receiving a target of 5,000 each. Bandar Lampung City has the largest target of 29,400, with 3,833 or 7.76% of early cervical cancer detection using HPV DNA testing already implemented (Bandar Lampung City Health Office, 2024). Data from the Bandar Lampung City Health Office shows that the level of visits by women aged 30-69 years for early cervical cancer detection is still not optimal. This is due to various factors, including a lack of public knowledge and negative perceptions of

HPV DNA testing, which is considered frightening, limited resources, and challenges in reaching vulnerable populations.

CONCLUSIONS

During the research for early cervical cancer detection using the HPV DNA method, public knowledge remained low, as well as strong negative perceptions of this test, which was perceived as frightening, painful, and synonymous with a diagnosis. These perceptions contributed to low participation among women aged 30–69, despite the test being free, accurate, and serving as a long-term preventive risk detection tool. Recommendations and follow-up plans were developed based on field findings and community input Collected during the residency. These efforts are expected to strengthen community-based health promotion strategies, improve women's health literacy, and gradually eliminate the negative stigma surrounding HPV DNA testing. With targeted implementation and the involvement of all stakeholders, the cervical cancer early detection program in Bandar Lampung City can be executed more optimally and sustainably.

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