

1 **The impact of HPV type on colposcopy performance in women offered HPV**
2 **immunisation in a catch-up vaccine programme: a two centre observational study**

3

4 ***Shortened Running Title:***

5 **Impact of HPV genotypes on colposcopy**

6

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29

30 **Abstract**

31 **Objective**

32 To determine if HPV immunisation has affected the prevalence of HPV genotypes and
33 colposcopic features of CIN in young women referred for colposcopy.

34

35 **Design**

36 A two-centre observational study including vaccinated and unvaccinated women.

37

38 **Setting**

39 Colposcopy clinics serving two health regions in Scotland, UK.

40

41 **Population**

42 361 women aged 20-25 years attending colposcopy following an abnormal cervical
43 cytology result at routine cervical screening.

44

45 **Methods**

46 Cervical samples were obtained from women for HPV DNA genotyping and mRNA
47 E6/E7 expression of HPV 16,18,31,33 and 45. Demographic data, cytology and
48 histology results and colposcopic features were recorded. Chi squared analysis was
49 conducted to identify associations between vaccine status, HPV genotypes and
50 colposcopic features.

51

52 **Main outcome measures**

53 Colposcopic features, HPV genotypes, mRNA expression and cervical histology.

54

55 **Results**

56 The prevalence of HPV 16 was significantly lower in the vaccinated (8.6%) compared
57 with the unvaccinated (46.7%) group ($p=0.001$). The number of cases of cervical
58 intraepithelial neoplasia 2 or more (CIN2+) was significantly lower in vaccinated
59 women ($p=0.006$). HPV vaccine did not have a statistically significant effect on
60 commonly recognised colposcopic features but there was a slight reduction in the
61 positive predictive value (PPV) of colposcopy for CIN2+ from 74% (unvaccinated) to
62 66.7% (vaccinated).

63

64 **Conclusions**

65 In this group of young women with abnormal cytology referred to colposcopy, HPV
66 vaccination via a catch-up programme reduced the prevalence of CIN2+ and HPV 16
67 infection. The reduced PPV of colposcopy for the detection of CIN2+ in vaccinated
68 women is at the lower acceptable level of the UK national cervical screening
69 programme guidelines.

70 Word count 246

71

72 **Keywords**

73 HPV, cervical screening, HPV vaccine, CIN, colposcopy, HPV genotyping

74

75 **Tweetable Abstract**

76 Reduction of hrHPV positivity and CIN in immunised women consistent with lower PPV
77 of colposcopy for CIN2+

78

79 **Introduction**

80 HPV immunisation has been a major advance in the prevention of cervical disease
81 and cancer. In September 2008, the bivalent vaccine (which protects against HPV 16
82 and 18) was introduced in the UK as part of the school-based immunisation
83 programme.¹ The vaccine is given to girls aged 12-13 years and current uptake rate
84 in schools in Scotland is 90%.² When the vaccine was introduced, it was also offered
85 to girls aged 14-17 as part of a catch up campaign: 65.5% of the eligible catch up
86 group in Scotland received the full three doses.² Within the school vaccination
87 programme the bivalent vaccine was used initially (2008-2010) but since 2011 it was
88 changed to the quadrivalent vaccine.

89

90 While prophylactic HPV vaccines offer primary protection against the highest risk HPV
91 types, as well as a level of cross protection for other high risk HPV types (HPV
92 31,33,45)³. However, there will still be a residual risk of disease conferred by other
93 high risk HPV genotypes which are not covered by the currently licensed vaccine(s).
94 Therefore, there is a continued need for secondary prevention using cervical screening
95 and colposcopy.

96

97 In Scotland cervical screening, using liquid based cytology, is offered to all women
98 aged 20-60 years with referral to colposcopy for further investigation if the cytology
99 shows high grade dyskaryosis or repeated low grade dyskaryosis or borderline nuclear
100 abnormalities (BNA).^{4,5} HPV triage is not part of the screening programme in Scotland.

101

102 There is inconsistent evidence as to whether the appearance of the cervix during
103 colposcopy is influenced by the HPV genotypes present.⁶⁻⁹ A study by Jeronimo et al.

104 found that colposcopic features characteristic of high grade cervical intraepithelial
105 neoplasia (CIN) imply infection with HPV 16 but not necessarily other HPV types.⁶ It
106 has also been shown that lesions missed during colposcopy are more likely to be HPV
107 16 negative than HPV 16 positive.^{7,8} In contrast, van der Marel et al. showed that the
108 visual appearance of high grade HPV16 lesions at colposcopy is not different from
109 lesions associated with other high risk HPV genotypes.⁹ However, these studies do not
110 include women who had been vaccinated against HPV infection. If the appearance of
111 the cervix is associated with HPV genotypes present, it would be anticipated that HPV
112 vaccination might alter the range of features seen at colposcopy and thereby
113 potentially affect the performance of colposcopy.

114

115 In this study, we investigated cervical abnormalities, HPV genotypes and performance
116 of conventional colposcopic evaluation in both vaccinated and unvaccinated women
117 aged 20-25 years attending colposcopy.

118

119 **Methods**

120 *Study design and population:* This two centre cross-sectional study was conducted
121 with women aged 20-25 years routinely attending colposcopy clinics following an
122 abnormal cervical cytology result in two Scottish teaching hospitals (Aberdeen Royal
123 Infirmary and Edinburgh Royal Infirmary) serving regional populations. The first group
124 (Group 1) of women was recruited between February 2010 and March 2011 (before
125 women vaccinated as part of the catch-up immunisation campaign had entered the
126 cervical screening programme) and the second group (Group 2) of women was
127 recruited from December 2012 to November 2014 (after women vaccinated as part of
128 the catch up campaign had entered the screening programme). Some individuals

129 (2008-2010) will have received Gardasil, through private arrangement, out with the
130 catch up programme.

131

132

133 *Recruitment & Consent:* Women were eligible if they attended colposcopy for the first
134 time following an abnormal cytology result at routine cervical screening. Women were
135 excluded if they were unable to understand the patient information leaflet (PIL), if they
136 were pregnant at the time of colposcopy or if they were being referred as a
137 consequence of symptoms. Eligible women were sent an invitation letter and
138 information before attending for colposcopy. At their appointment, written consent was
139 obtained if they wished to take part in the study.

140

141 *Data collection:* Participants were assigned a unique study number and data were
142 collected on age, referral cytology, parity and vaccination status (including vaccine
143 type, number of doses and age at last dose). Women were considered to be
144 vaccinated if they received two or more doses of a HPV vaccine.¹⁰ Information on
145 vaccine status was obtained from the Scottish Cervical Call-Recall System (SCCRS).
146 SCCRS is the national cervical screening database that contains cytology results,
147 associated histopathology, recall and management data and also immunisation status.

148

149 *Colposcopy:* Colposcopy was performed by BS CCP-accredited colposcopists, who
150 recorded their findings using standard reporting features. Colposcopists were blind to
151 the HPV status of the patient. Samples for HPV genotyping were obtained using a
152 broom sampler before the application of acetic acid and were stored in ThinPrep®
153 PreservCyt® (©Hologic UK, Crawley, West Sussex, UK). Biopsies were taken if

154 features indicative of CIN were seen at colposcopy, including acetowhite changes and
155 capillary vessel patterns. A 'see and treat' approach was considered for women
156 referred with high grade dyskaryosis, as per local protocols. If a punch biopsy or
157 diathermy loop excision treatment was undertaken, these had a histological diagnosis
158 within the local NHS pathology laboratory. Histology results were captured from
159 pathology records.

160

161 *HPV genotyping:* Samples were tested at the Scottish HPV Reference Laboratory,
162 Edinburgh for the presence of 37 HPV genotypes using QIAamp® Media
163 MDx¹¹ followed by LINEAR ARRAY HPV Genotyping Test (Roche Molecular
164 Systems).¹² High-risk HPV types were considered to be: 16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51,
165 52, 56, 58, 59 and 68. Intermediate risk HPV types were: 26, 53, 64, 66, 67, 69, 70,
166 73, 82, IS39 and CP6108. All other HPV genotypes that were identified were
167 considered to be low-risk.¹³

168

169 A sub-set of samples (N=319;88%), based on availability of samples, were also tested
170 for mRNA expression using PreTect HPV-Proofer (Norchip AS, Klokkearstua, Norway)
171 which detects E6/E7 mRNA from HPV 16, 18, 31, 33 and 45.¹⁴

172

173

174 *Statistical analysis:* All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS Version 20
175 (IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 20.0, Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.) Chi-squared
176 analysis was used to test for associations between vaccine status and colposcopic
177 features, colposcopic opinion, histology results and HPV genotypes. All p values were
178 two sided and for the chi-squared analysis were considered significant if their value

179 was less than 0.05. Z-tests of two proportions were used to assess the difference in
180 prevalence for each of the 35 types genotyped. As multiple statistical tests were
181 conducted, the significance threshold for the z-tests was subject to the Bonferroni
182 correction and therefore considered significant if their value was less than 0.00143
183 ($=0.05/35$).

184

185 Performance analysis of colposcopy was conducted using histology results as the gold
186 standard for final diagnosis. In cases where no biopsy was indicated, women were
187 assumed to have no significant disease. Sensitivity, specificity, PPV and NPV of
188 colposcopy were calculated for detection of high grade disease (CIN2+); a positive
189 test was considered to be a colposcopic opinion of “high grade”. Comparisons were
190 made between vaccinated and unvaccinated women, and also between those who
191 were positive and those who were negative for DNA HPV16. Differences in the
192 performance of colposcopy between groups were assessed using z-tests.

193

194 *Statistical power:* Power analysis was conducted to calculate how many participants
195 were necessary to reach adequate sample size using EPISTAT software. The
196 proportion of high risk types was estimated from previously published research.¹³ A
197 1:1 ratio for HPV 16/18 against all other HPV types was used. It was estimated 400
198 women would give 95% power to detect a reduction in PPV of colposcopy from 70%
199 to 52.5% between 200 HPV16/18 positive women and 200 women who did not have
200 HPV16/18. If only 200 women in total were recruited (100 with and 100 without
201 HPV16/18) there would be an 86% power to detect a 30% reduction from 70% to 40%.

202

203 **Results**

204 **Recruitment**

205 Figure S1: Flow diagram of recruitment and study processes

206 A flow diagram of recruitment and study processes is included in supplementary
207 information. In Group 1 (recruited before women eligible for the HPV vaccine in the
208 catch up campaign entered the cervical screening programme) 208 women agreed to
209 participate, 10 were excluded because they did not have a sample taken for HPV
210 testing. Of the 198 women included in the final analysis, 172 had both HPV mRNA
211 and DNA tests. In Group 2 (recruited after women eligible for the HPV vaccine in the
212 catch up campaign entered the cervical screening programme) 175 women agreed to
213 take part, 12 were excluded because they did not have a sample for HPV testing or
214 colposcopy data. Of the 163 included in analysis, 147 had both HPV mRNA and DNA
215 tests.

216

217 **Participant Demographics**

218 Table S1 shows the participant characteristics for each group. Vaccine status was self-
219 reported in Group 1 (three women (2%) reported being vaccinated: two received the
220 quadrivalent vaccine and one received the bivalent vaccine). As this could not be
221 verified by SCCRS at the time, all women were considered unvaccinated. In Group 2
222 the vaccine status was verified by SCCRS and 67 (41%) women were vaccinated. The
223 mean age at colposcopy in both groups was 22 years. For those vaccinated, the mean
224 age at last dose was 17.3 years (SD 1.2).

225 Table 1: Participant Demographic data by group

226

227 **Impact of vaccination on colposcopic features and histology**

228 Table 2: Impact of vaccination status on colposcopic features and histology

229 As shown in Table 2, the proportions of women with acetowhite changes (79% vs
230 77%), mosaic (44% vs 43%), punctation (38% vs 39%) or atypical vessels (1% vs 1%)
231 were similar in both unvaccinated and vaccinated groups respectively. There was no
232 significant impact on non-iodine staining epithelium, which is noted in a higher
233 proportion of vaccinated women (56%) compared to unvaccinated women (50%;
234 $p=0.44$). However, the use of iodine was inconsistent between colposcopists, and was
235 not applied in 100 cases limiting any conclusions. Colposcopists were significantly
236 more likely to record their opinion as high grade in unvaccinated women (34%)
237 compared to vaccinated women (20%; $p=0.027$), a difference of 14% (95% CI 2%,
238 26%). Unvaccinated women were also more likely to have high grade disease (CIN2+)
239 36%, compared to 19% in vaccinated women, $p=0.006$; a difference of 17% (95% CI
240 5%, 29%). Unvaccinated women were also more likely to have any grade of CIN
241 (CIN1+); 63% compared to 46% in vaccinated $p=0.044$, a difference of 17% (95% CI
242 2%, 30%).

243

244 All eight cases of invasive squamous carcinoma or CGIN were identified in
245 unvaccinated women. All three cases of CIN3 identified in vaccinated women were
246 HPV 16 and 18 negative on cervical samples; two of these were associated with HPV
247 33 (mRNA and DNA positive) and one with HPV 52 (DNA positive). A higher proportion
248 of vaccinated women (40% compared with 28% unvaccinated) did not have a biopsy
249 taken (i.e. the colposcopic appearance did not indicate any significant disease).

250

251 **HPV Genotyping Results**

252 *Figure 1: HPV genotyping results*

253 Figure 1 demonstrates the HPV genotypes that were present in vaccinated and
254 unvaccinated women. Only six vaccinated women (9%) had HPV 16, a significantly
255 lower proportion than the unvaccinated group (47%; $p < 0.001$). Two (3%) of the
256 vaccinated women had an HPV 18 infection, compared to 17% of the unvaccinated
257 women ($p = 0.003$). High risk HPV types 52, 56 and 58 were found to be present in a
258 higher proportion of women in the vaccinated group than in the unvaccinated
259 group (23% vs 13%; $p = 0.039$, 16% vs 6%; $p = 0.023$ and 13% vs 6%; $p = 0.029$
260 respectively). The changes in HPV 18, 52, 56 and 58 are not considered statistically
261 significant when multiple statistical testing is accounted for. For all other high risk HPV
262 types, there was no difference in prevalence between vaccinated and unvaccinated
263 women.

264

265 319 samples were tested for HPV mRNA (HPV 16, 18, 31, 33 or 45), 172 in Group 1
266 and 147 in Group 2. Although 14 (25%) samples in the vaccinated group had a
267 transcriptionally active HPV infection indicated by the mRNA results, there was a
268 significantly higher proportion of women in the unvaccinated group (63%) with
269 transcriptionally active HPV infections ($p < 0.001$). Of the vaccinated group, four (7%)
270 tested positive for HPV 16 mRNA compared to 101 (38%) of the unvaccinated group
271 ($p < 0.001$).

272

273 **Impact of HPV 16 infection on Colposcopic Features and histology**

274 Table S1 in supplementary information shows colposcopic features and histology
275 results by HPV 16 status

276 There was no association between presence of HPV 16 DNA or HPV16 mRNA and
277 any individual colposcopic features. Despite this, colposcopists were more likely to

278 record a colposcopic opinion of high grade if participants were HPV 16 DNA positive
279 (57%; $p=0.006$) or HPV 16 mRNA positive (59%; $p=0.03$) than if the woman was HPV16
280 DNA/mRNA negative (37% and 43% respectively). Women were also more likely to
281 have a high grade histology result if they were positive for HPV 16 DNA (71%; $p<0.001$)
282 or HPV 16 mRNA (77%; $p<0.001$) than if they tested negative (38% and 43%
283 respectively).

284

285 **Performance of colposcopy**

286 Table 3: Impact of HPV vaccine and HPV 16 on performance of colposcopy

287 Table 3 summarises the performance of colposcopy in vaccinated and unvaccinated
288 women in terms of sensitivity, specificity, PPV and NPV for the detection of CIN2+. The
289 HPV vaccination status did not have a statistically significant impact on the
290 performance of colposcopy. The PPV of colposcopy was 74.0 (95% CI: 63.8-82.1) in
291 unvaccinated women and 66.7 (95% CI: 35.4-88.7) in vaccinated women although this
292 difference was not statistically significant ($p=0.591$).

293

294 HPV 16 presence or absence had a significant impact on the specificity and NPV of
295 colposcopy for detecting high grade disease ($p<0.001$). Colposcopy was found to
296 have a higher specificity (92.4 (95% CI: 87.1-95.7) compared to 75.0 (95% CI: 62.3-
297 84.6)) and NPV (94.6 (95% CI: 89.7-97.3) compared to 64.9 (95% CI: 52.8-75.4)) in
298 women who were HPV 16 negative compared to HPV 16 positive.

299

300 **Discussion**

301

302 **Main Findings**

303 Vaccination in the catch-up cohort is associated with a significant reduction in the
304 prevalence of HPV 16/18 and CIN2+ in women aged 20-25 years attending
305 colposcopy in Scotland³. Our results show that colposcopic features were similar in
306 vaccinated and unvaccinated women and differences were related to the incidence of
307 cervical disease. Our results indicate that the performance of colposcopy in vaccinated
308 women has not diminished substantially. However, the PPV for CIN2+ was lower in
309 vaccinated women (albeit not at a statistically significant level).

310

311 ***Strengths and Limitations***

312 To our knowledge, this study is the first to investigate the impact of HPV genotypes on
313 colposcopic features associated with CIN in HPV immunised women. This is possible
314 as cervical screening in Scotland starts earlier than in many countries, with vaccinated
315 women entering our national programme in 2010. Scotland achieved high rates of
316 vaccination in the catch up campaign (65.5%) and has reasonable³ yearly cervical
317 screening uptake (70.7% overall, 50.9% in 20-24 year olds).¹⁵For Group 2 we were
318 able to assign vaccine status using SCCRS to improve reliability.

319

320 To minimise bias, colposcopists and histopathologists were blinded to HPV results and
321 staff undertaking the HPV genotyping tests were blinded to vaccine status.

322

323 As the aim of the immunisation is to reduce deaths from cervical cancer, it could be at
324 least age 30 before this can be confidently measured. The long lead-time between
325 HPV infection and development of malignancy means that high grade CIN (as used in
326 our study) is a justifiable surrogate marker for cervical cancer.¹⁶

327

328 Where the cervix appeared normal, biopsies were not taken (as per local protocols)
329 so these women lacked a “gold standard diagnosis” and were classified as ‘disease
330 negative’ for analysis. A high proportion of women who did not have a biopsy taken
331 were subsequently found to be HPV 16 negative. This resulted in a high NPV of
332 colposcopy for detecting high grade disease in HPV 16 negative women, despite there
333 being no histological confirmation of disease status for them. The NPV of colposcopy
334 has been previously been recorded as high (up to 96%), so we expect to miss very
335 few cases of CIN.^{17,18}

336

337 However, as Jeronimo et al.⁶ suggested that high grade CIN is more likely to be missed
338 by colposcopy in the absence of HPV 16, it may be that the HPV 16 negative women
339 with normal colposcopy have disease lacking characteristic colposcopic features.
340 Follow up of our cohort in the future will address this.

341

342 ***Interpretation***

343 We believe this is the first study conducted with this primary aim in women who have
344 received HPV vaccine.⁶⁻⁹ Previous studies reporting on the impact of HPV genotypes
345 on colposcopy were conducted as *ad hoc* analyses of larger studies with inconsistent
346 results. Jeronimo et al. found that HPV 16 was more likely to produce lesions with
347 colposcopically identifiable features than other HPV types, regardless of histology.⁶
348 Louwers et al. reported the presence of HPV 16 significantly improved the sensitivity
349 of the Dynamic Spectral Imaging colposcopy for CIN and hypothesised that HPV 16
350 is associated with acetowhitening.⁷ Using data from this same study, Zaal et al. found
351 that HPV 16 did not impact the performance of standard colposcopy and suggested
352 that effects were dependent on the underlying grade of disease, rather than HPV16

353 *per se*.⁸Similarly, van der Marel found that the visual appearance of high-grade HPV16
354 lesions did not differ from lesions associated with other high-risk HPV types.⁹ Our
355 results support this with no significant difference in relation to either vaccine status or
356 presence of HPV16. Changes in PPV relate to the reduced incidence of high grade
357 disease in immunised women as PPV is strongly influenced by disease prevalence
358 and the reduction reflects the reduction in CIN.¹⁹With the emerging cohort of women
359 who received HPV immunisation as part of routine vaccination, rather than catch up,
360 it is important to clarify the effect of reducing or even eliminating HPV vaccine types
361 from the screened population as we use colposcopy to identify and treat CIN.

362

363 We did not find any association between HPV 16 and acetowhitening in women
364 attending colposcopy. Colposcopists were able to identify HPV 16 negative lesions
365 during colposcopy which were confirmed on biopsy. The women included in our study
366 were younger (mean age 22.3 years) compared with previous studies (mean age
367 ranged from 26.2 to 36.7 years).⁶⁻⁹Given that the peak prevalence of HPV infection
368 occurs in women before that of CIN, we anticipate that the impact of HPV genotypes
369 on colposcopic features may also vary according to age.²⁰

370

371 The vaccinated women in this study received the HPV immunisation as part of the
372 catch up campaign. The mean age at last dose was 17.3 years. Women were not
373 asked about sexual activity. It is likely that some women were sexually active and
374 therefore not HPV naïve prior to vaccination.^{3,21,22}

375

376 Our study suggests that, compared to unvaccinated women, lower proportions of
377 vaccinated women had high grade cervical cytology. A similar observation has been

378 made in Australia.¹⁶ This study reported a significant decrease (38%; p=0.003) in high
379 grade cervical abnormalities in young girls (under 18 years) following the introduction
380 of the HPV vaccine but no significant decrease in the incidence of low grade cervical
381 abnormalities in this age category, or in women aged 18-20 years. As the cohort
382 vaccinated in the school programme at age 12 enters screening, in 2021 in the UK,
383 we would expect to see a greater impact on PPV with lower disease rates if we do not
384 review risk stratification of our screening policy.

385

386

387 Our results are consistent with those reported in the screened population in Scotland
388 with a significant reduction in circulating HPV vaccine types and associated
389 disease and provides further evidence of the success of the vaccination
390 programme.^{3,20,23} The prevalence of HPV16/18 in vaccinated women attending
391 colposcopy is similar to that in young women attending cervical screening (11.5% at
392 colposcopy compared to 11% and 13.6% at screening).^{3,23} Kavanagh et al. found that
393 HPV 51 and 56 were the most prevalent HPV genotypes in vaccinated women
394 attending cervical screening (10.5% and 9.6% respectively).³ The prevalence of HPV
395 51 and 56 was higher in the vaccinated women attending colposcopy compared to the
396 unvaccinated women (15.7% for each compared to 12.7% and 5.8% respectively in
397 unvaccinated women) in our study. In contrast to Kavanagh et al, we found that HPV
398 52 and 59 emerged as the most prevalent HPV genotypes in vaccinated women
399 attending colposcopy with abnormal cytology (22.9% and 17.1% respectively).
400 However different HPV assays were used in those studies which may influence HPV
401 genotype detection.

402

403

404 **Conclusion**

405 We found no significant impact of vaccination on colposcopic features in women aged
406 20-25 with abnormal cervical cytology who had received the HPV 16/18 vaccine as
407 part of a catch up campaign. Despite the lower prevalence of HPV 16 in vaccinated
408 women, features considered characteristic of high grade CIN were still detectable.
409 Cervical screening needs to continue to offer protection from disease from non-
410 vaccine types. However, the reduction in prevalence of CIN has impacted on the PPV
411 of colposcopy and this has implications for quality assurance of colposcopy in the
412 cervical screening programme.

413

414 In order to assess the impact of the HPV vaccination on colposcopy performance
415 further, studies should be conducted when the women who received the vaccine as
416 part of the school based immunisation programme (in whom the coverage rates were
417 90%) enter the cervical screening programme.

418

419 **Word count 3465**

420

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424

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428

429 **Disclosure of Interests**

430 HAC received an honorarium from GSK for participation in an expert panel and
431 received an educational grant from GSK in 2009 in relation to the Scottish HPV
432 archive.

433 KC's institution has received project funding from GeneFirst and Euroimmune in the
434 last 2 years.

435

436 **Contribution to Authorship**

437 AM conducted the study, performed the analysis and drafted the manuscript.

438 CG conducted the study and performed the statistical analysis of women in Group 1.

439 SCC had oversight of study conduct and statistical analysis, interpretation of results
440 and critical revision of the manuscript.

441 KK advised on the statistical analysis and contributed to the draft and revisions of the
442 manuscript.

443 KC had input into design on HPV testing elements, organisation of laboratory work
444 and contribution to manuscript revisions

445 CM had operational oversight of all HPV testing and delivery of HPV genotyping

446 HC had input into design of original study and contributed to the draft and revisions of
447 the manuscript

448 CR advised on the statistical analysis, study design and contributed to the draft and
449 revisions of the manuscript

450 LS contributed to the local study organisation and contributed to manuscript revisions.

451 KP contributed to the interpretation of results and the discussion

452 CBE contributed to the local study organisation and conduct as Principal Investigator
453 at a contributing centre; as well as to manuscript revisions.

454 TP contributed to interpretation of results and revisions of the final manuscript.

455 MEC designed the original study, participated in interpretation of results, provided
456 critical revision of the manuscript.

457

458 All authors approved the final version.

459

460 **Details of Ethics Approval**

461 Ethical approval was granted by the North of Scotland Research Ethics Committee
462 on 22/12/2009 prior to the start of recruitment (reference number 09/S0801/106).

463

464

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529

530 **Figure 1: Flow diagram of recruitment**

531

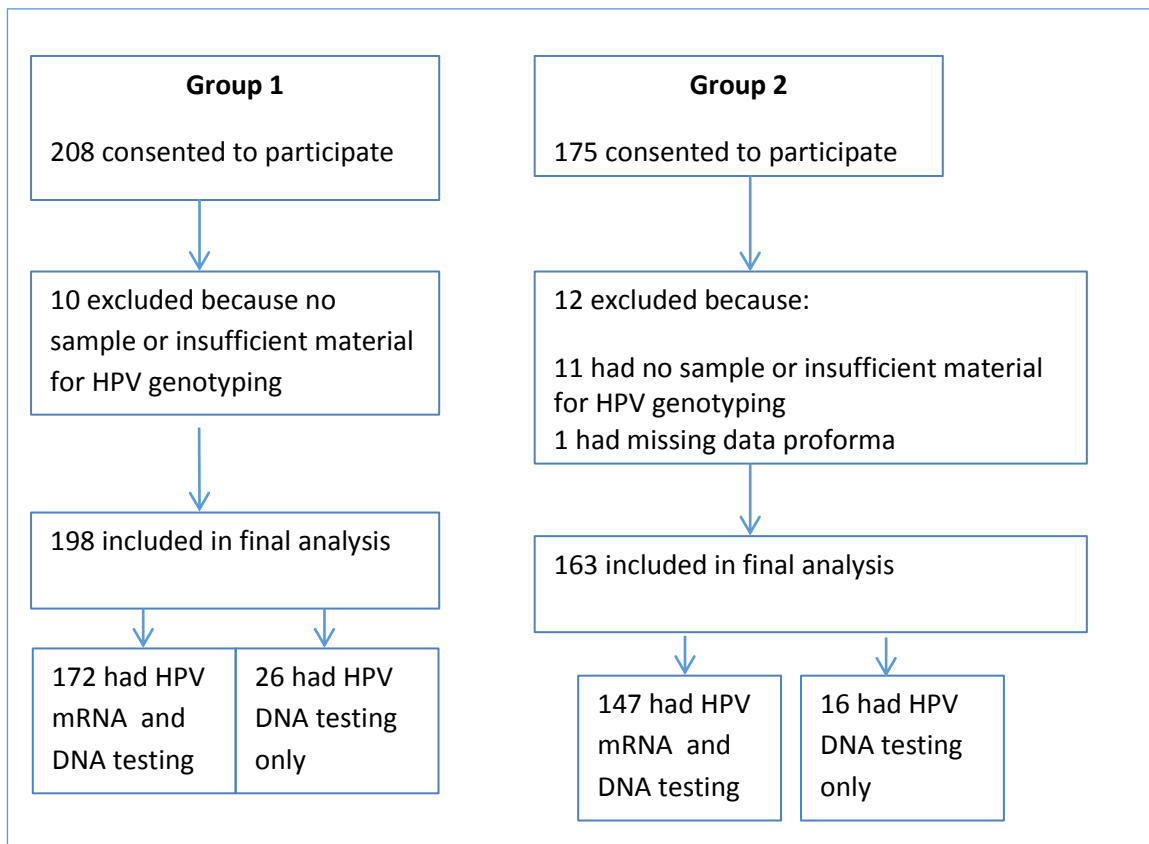


Figure 2: HPV genotyping results from samples collected at colposcopy

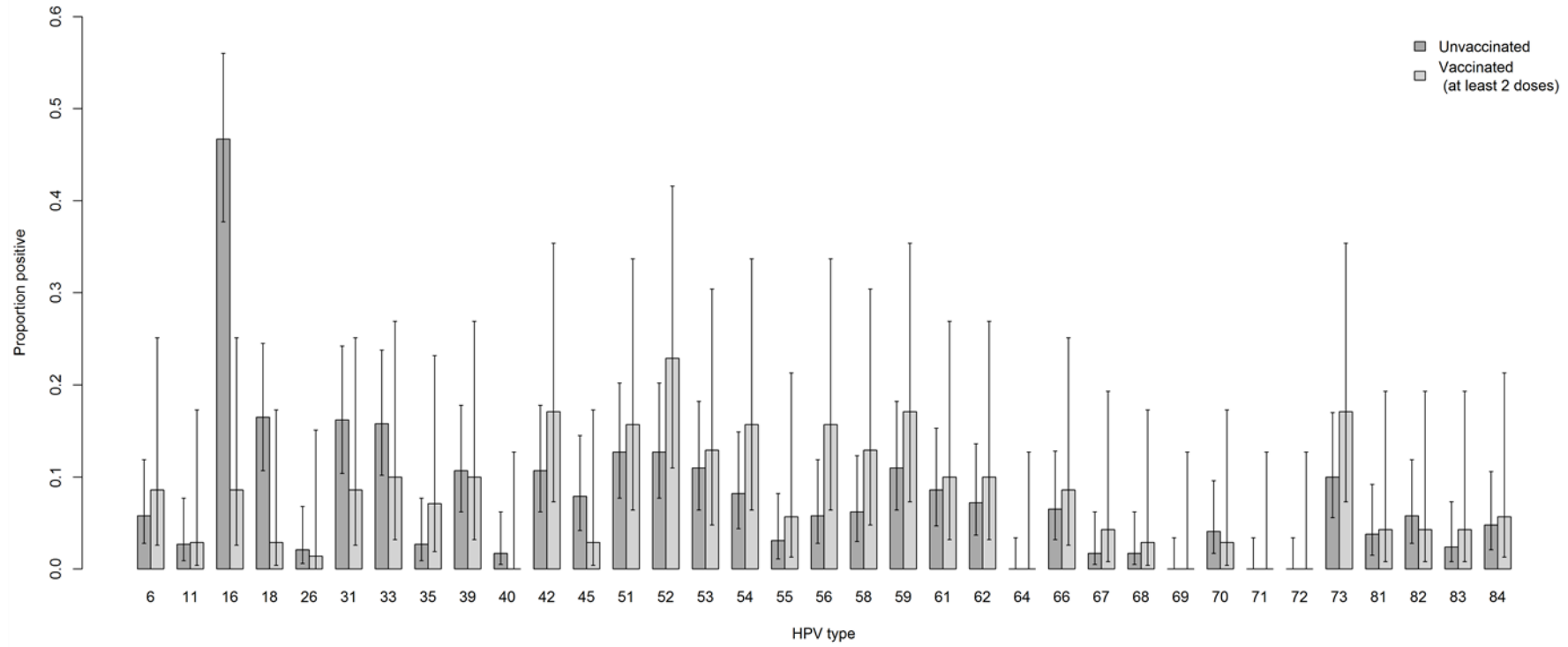


Table 1: Participant demographic data by group

| | Group 1 N (column %) N=198* | Group 2 N (column %) N=163 | | Overall N=361 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | | Vaccinated 67 (41.1) | Unvaccinated 96 (58.9) | |
| Site | | | | |
| Site 1 | 95 (48.0) | 53 (79.1) | 93 (96.9) | 241 (66.8) |
| Site 2 | 103 (52.0) | 14 (20.9) | 3 (3.1) | 120 (33.2) |
| Age at colposcopy | | | | |
| 20 years | 42 (21.2) | 17 (25.4) | 5 (5.2) | 64 (17.7) |
| 21 years | 33 (16.7) | 31 (46.3) | 5 (5.2) | 69 (19.1) |
| 22 years | 29 (14.6) | 14 (20.9) | 18 (18.8) | 61 (16.9) |
| 23 years | 39 (19.7) | 3 (4.5) | 31 (32.3) | 73 (20.2) |
| 24 years | 40 (20.2) | 1 (1.5) | 17 (17.7) | 58 (16.1) |
| 25 years | 15 (7.6) | 1 (1.5) | 20 (20.8) | 36 (10.0) |
| Mean Age (years) | 22.2 (SD 1.6) | 21.2(SD 1.0) | 23.2 (SD 1.4) | 22.3 (SD 1.6) |
| Referral Cytology | | | | |
| Borderline | 46 (23.2) | 19 (28.4) | 27 (28.1) | 92 (25.5) |
| Mild dyskaryosis | 86 (43.4) | 34 (50.7) | 28 (29.2) | 148 (41.0) |
| Moderate dyskaryosis | 36 (18.2) | 12 (17.9) | 28 (29.2) | 76 (21.1) |
| Severe dyskaryosis | 24 (12.1) | 2 (3.0) | 11 (11.5) | 37 (10.2) |
| Glandular neoplasia | 1 (0.5) | - | 2 (2.1) | 3 (0.8) |
| Invasive cancer | 1 (0.5) | - | - | 1 (0.3) |
| Missing | 4 (2) | - | - | 4 (1.1) |
| Histology | | | | |
| Biopsy not taken [‡] | 61 (30.8) | 27 (40.3) | 20 (20.8) | 108 (29.9) |
| Normal (No CIN) | 19 (9.6) | 9 (13.4) | 10 (10.4) | 38 (10.5) |
| CIN1 | 53 (26.8) | 18 (26.9) | 24 (25.0) | 95 (26.3) |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| CIN2 | 35 (17.7) | 9 (13.4) | 23 (24.0) | 67 (18.6) |
| CIN3 | 24 (12.1) | 3 (4.5) | 14 (14.6) | 41 (11.4) |
| Invasive squamous 1a1 | 1 (0.5) | - | 1 (1.0) | 2 (0.6) |
| CGIN | 2 (1.0) | - | 4 (4.2) | 6 (1.7) |
| Unsatisfactory | 3 (1.5) | 1 (1.5) | - | 4 (1.1) |

Table 1: Comparison of participant demographics between groups. "Vaccinated" women refer to women who had received 2 or more doses of the HPV vaccination. *Group 1 includes 3 women who reported they had received the HPV vaccine. †All cases where biopsy was not taken were because colposcopic appearances were normal.

Table 2: Impact of HPV vaccine on colposcopic features and histology.

| | Unvaccinated n/N (%) | Vaccinated n/N (%) | chi squared p- value* (Pearson unless indicated) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Colposcopic Features | | | |
| Acetowhite | 231/291 (79.4) | 54/70 (77.1) | 0.623 |
| Mosaic | 129/291 (44.3) | 30/70 (42.9) | 0.791 |
| Punctuation | 111/291 (38.1) | 27/70 (38.6) | 1.00 |
| Atypical Vessels | 3/291 (1.0) | 1/70 (1.4) | 0.589† |
| Iodine Negative** | 101/202 (50.0) | 33/59 (55.9) | 0.029 |
| Colposcopic Opinion | | | |
| High Grade*** | 99/290 (34.1) | 13/66 (19.7) | 0.027 |
| Histology**** | | | |
| CIN2+ | 103/286 (36.0) | 13/69 (18.8) | 0.006 |
| CIN1+ | 179/286 (62.6) | 32/69 (46.3) | 0.044† |

Table 2 compares the features seen at colposcopy between all participants regardless of disease status who were vaccinated against HPV 16 and 18, and women who were not. It also compares the colposcopic opinion and histology results between these groups. In patients where biopsies were not taken, they were considered to have no disease. *Pearson's test used unless otherwise indicated. †Fisher's exact test used. **in 100 cases, iodine was not used. This was for a variety of reasons including patient allergy or colposcopist preference. ***High grade colposcopic opinion was appearance suggestive of CIN2+. ****Histology results were "unsatisfactory" for 5 unvaccinated and 1 vaccinated therefore were excluded from histology analysis.

Table 3: Impact of HPV 16 on colposcopic features and histology

| | HPV 16 DNA + n/N (%) | HPV 16 DNA - n/N (%) | chi squared p-value* | HPV 16 mRNA + n/N (%) | HPV 16 mRNA - n/N (%) | chi squared p-value* |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Colposcopic Features | | | | | | |
| Acetowhite | 105/109 (96.3) | 104/107 (97.2) | 1.00 [†] | 85/87 (97.7) | 103/107 (96.3) | 0.693 [†] |
| Mosaic | 69/109 (63.3) | 63/107 (58.9) | 0.58 | 56/87 (64.4) | 64/107 (59.8) | 0.554 |
| Punctuation | 61/107 (57.0) | 55/107 (51.4) | 0.49 | 50/86 (58.1) | 55/106 (51.9) | 0.466 |
| Atypical Vessels | 2/107 (1.9) | 1/106 (0.9) | 1.00 [†] | 2/85 (2.4) | 1/106 (0.9) | 0.586 [†] |
| Iodine Negative | 46/109 (42.2) | 44/108 (40.7) | 0.41 | 37/87 (42.5) | 49/108 (45.4) | 0.853 |
| Colposcopic Opinion | | | | | | |
| High Grade | 61/108 (56.5) | 40/107 (37.4) | 0.006 | 51/86 (59.3) | 46/107 (43.0) | 0.03 |
| Histology | | | | | | |
| CIN2+ | 77/108 (71.3) | 39/103 (37.9) | <0.001 | 67/87 (77.0) | 45/104 (43.3) | <0.001 |

Table 3 compares colposcopic features, colposcopic opinion and histology results between participants with cervical disease (CIN1+) by HPV 16 DNA status, and by HPV 16 mRNA status. Iodine was not used in 31 participants who were HPV 16 DNA+, 24 HPV 16 DNA-, 24 mRNA+, 26mRNA-. *Pearson's test used unless otherwise indicated. †Fisher's exact test used.