

July 1, 2005

FROM:

**HIV, STD and Hepatitis Prevention Branch
Public Health Services
Health and Human Services Agency
County of San Diego**

**Contents – STDHEP Update #18
Information Regarding Human papillomavirus (HPV)
Save the Date: 2005 Viral Hepatitis Conference**

Information from the STD Control Officer, California Department of Health Services (bolding added)

Human papillomavirus (HPV)

Several new developments regarding HPV have taken place.

Diagnostic tests

Digene has recently launched a national marketing campaign in several U.S. cities for its Hybrid Capture II HPV Test. The campaign's materials may be found at: www.thehpvtest.com. Key issues which practicing physicians should be aware of are the following:

1. HPV is a very common virus that is easily transmitted during sex. **Most sexually active adults will have it at some point in their lives, although most will have no symptoms, nor ever know they've been infected; often, the virus will go away on its own.**
2. Clinical indications for the HPV test for high-risk types include reflex testing for triage of atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASC-US) Pap results, adjunct screening along with Pap tests in women over age 30 to inform the frequency of Pap screening, and selected follow-up strategies for women diagnosed with cervical neoplasia. **The HPV test is not recommended for routine screening in the general population.**
3. Prevention strategies include:
 - a. abstinence from genital contact with others.
 - b. remaining mutually monogamous with an uninfected partner.
 - c. reducing number of partners and choosing partners who are less likely to have had multiple partners.

- d. using condoms. While the effectiveness of condoms in preventing HPV infection is unknown, condom use has been associated with lower rates and regression of HPV-associated diseases such as genital warts and cervical neoplasia.
- e. regular cervical cancer screening for women according to new **American Cancer Society guidelines** (<http://www.cancer.org/>), and treatment of precancerous lesions. The Pap test remains the most important tool for preventing cervical cancer. Most women diagnosed with cervical cancer have not been screened in the past five years, or have not had proper follow-up after an abnormal test.

Additional resources may be found on CDC's HPV web page: www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/default.htm. **These include downloadable fact sheets and clinical information.**

Vaccine update

GlaxoSmithKline has developed an HPV vaccine with HPV 16 and HPV 18 L1 virus-like particles (VLPs), and an aluminum salts and monophospholipid A adjuvant. **The vaccine targets HPV strains that cause about 70 percent of cervical cancer, and is intended for women aged 10 years and older, with a goal to decrease cervical cancer in women** and prevent HPV 16- and HPV 18-associated outcomes of persistent infection, cytological abnormalities, and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN).

Merck has developed a quadravalent HPV 6, 11, 16, and 18 L1 VLP vaccine with an aluminum adjuvant. **Merck goals are to decrease cervical and anal cancer, CIN, and anal intraepithelial neoplasia (AIN), as well as genital warts and vulvar or vaginal precancerous lesions. Vaccination strategies would target adolescents aged 9 to 18 years of both sexes, and sexually active adults of both sexes.** Merck expects to submit an application to FDA and regulatory authorities of other countries in the second half of 2005. Merck is applying to FDA for adult and adolescent immunization targets.

In collaboration with state Immunization and Cancer Control Branches, the STD Control Branch will be convening a series of stakeholders meetings in the Fall. For more information, please contact Dr. Heidi Bauer at Hbauer@dhs.ca.gov.

HPV Webcast

HPV and Cervical Cancer Webcast: An Update on Prevention Strategies,
August 9, 2005, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., PDT

CDC has announced a webcast on HPV and cervical cancer. The webcast's goal is to increase provider knowledge of HPV and its clinical manifestations, and to update clinicians on strategies to prevent genital HPV infection and cervical cancer that are consistent with national guidelines. It is appropriate for obstetricians, gynecologists, physicians in family and general practice, general internists, advanced practice nurses, physician's assistants, and nurses.

Presenters include: Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of CDC; Dr. John Douglas, Director of CDC's STD Division; Dr. Mona Saraiya, epidemiologist at CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention; and Dr. Thomas Wright, Associate Professor of Pathology at Columbia University.

This program will be available for viewing on and after August 9, 2005, at: <http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/PHTN/webcast/HPV-05>. Continuing Education will be available by registering and completing an evaluation at: <http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtnonline>.

Additional information is available from the County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Prevention Branch. Contact information listed below.

Viral Hepatitis Conference Announcement

Save the date!

Fall Liver Update Viral Hepatitis 2005: Community Impact

September 29, 2005

9 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Handlery Hotel and Resort

950, Hotel Circle North, San Diego

Topics will include local and national perspectives, border health issues related to hepatitis, and a review of a local hepatitis epidemiological investigation. Cost is \$25 if received on or before August 31, and \$30 after. For more information call 619-291-5483, or email Cmartin@liverfoundation.org

Recruit a Colleague!

Do you have colleagues who would benefit from receiving STDHEP Updates?

If so, please pass this Update on to them!

STDHEP Updates are sent 4 – 5 times per year, and include **time-sensitive information** about **STDs and viral hepatitis**. Member emails are confidential, and users can unsubscribe at any time.

To join the STDHEP Email List, send an email to STDHEP.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov with “Join” in the subject line.

You can also call Craig Sturak, 619-692-8369, and ask to be added to the list.

STD clinic services, which include a dark-field examination of any suspect primary syphilis lesion, complete STD screening, and selective risk-based Hepatitis vaccination, are available 5 days a week on a walk-in basis. Call 619-692-8550 for times and locations. Field and Community Services staff members are available to assist in any way, including transportation of clients to the clinic. Please call 619-692-8501 for assistance.