

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

Cervical human papillomavirus infection among young women engaged in sex work in Phnom Penh, Cambodia: prevalence, genotypes, risk factors and association with HIV infection

Marie-Claude Couture^{1*}, Kimberly Page¹, Ellen S Stein¹, Neth Sansothy², Keo Sichan³, John Kaldor⁴, Jennifer L Evans¹, Lisa Maher⁴ and Joel Palefsky¹

Abstract

Background: Although cervical cancer is the leading cancer in Cambodia, most women receive no routine screening for cervical cancer and few treatment options exist. Moreover, nothing is known regarding the prevalence of cervical HPV or the genotypes present among women in the country. Young sexually active women, especially those with multiple sex partners are at highest risk of HPV infection. We examine the prevalence and genotypes of cervical HPV, as well as the associated risk factors among young women engaged in sex work in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study among 220 young women (15–29 years) engaged in sex work in different venues including brothels or entertainment establishments, and on a freelance basis in streets, parks and private apartments. Cervical specimens were collected using standard cytobrush technique. HPV DNA was tested for by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and genotyping using type-specific probes for 29 individual HPV types, as well as for a mixture of 10 less common HPV types. All participants were also screened for HIV status using blood samples. Multivariate logistic regression analyses were conducted to assess risk factors for any or multiple HPV infection.

Results: The prevalence of cervical HPV 41.1%. HPV 51 and 70 were the most common (5.0%), followed by 16 (4.6%), 71 (4.1%) and 81 (3.7%). Thirty-six women (16.4%) were infected with multiple genotypes and 23.3% were infected with at least one oncogenic HPV type. In multivariate analyses, having HIV infection and a higher number of sexual partners were associated with cervical HPV infection. Risk factors for infection with multiple genotypes included working as freelance female sex workers (FSW) or in brothels, recent binge use of drugs, high number of sexual partners, and HIV infection.

Conclusions: This is the first Cambodian study on cervical HPV prevalence and genotypes. We found that HPV infection was common among young FSW, especially among women infected with HIV. These results underscore the urgent need for accessible cervical cancer screening and treatment, as well as for a prophylactic vaccine that covers the HPV subtypes present in Cambodia.

* Correspondence: mcouture@psg.ucsf.edu

¹University of California San Francisco, Global Health Sciences, 50 Beale street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94105, USA

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

Background

Cervical cancer is the third most common cause of cancer among women worldwide, and it is more frequent in developing countries where population-level screening programs are generally unavailable [1]. In Cambodia, cervical cancer is the most common form of cancer among women with an incidence (age-standardized rate ASR) of 27.4 per 100 000, higher than in other Southeast Asian countries [1]. Few, if any, Cambodian women receive screening for cervical cancer and few treatment options exist [2], likely contributing to a high mortality rate of 16.2 per 100,000 (estimated age-standardized rate ASR) [1].

Genital human papillomavirus (HPV), the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) worldwide, is the key causal agent in cervical cancer [3,4]. More than 100 different HPV genotypes have been identified, which are divided into “high-risk” (HR) and “low-risk” (LR) types on the basis of their oncogenic potential [5]. Most HPV infections are transient and clinically unapparent. However, persistent infection with cervical HR-HPV genotypes can lead to the development of cervical cancer pre-malignant lesions that may evolve into invasive cervical cancer [5].

Cervical HPV prevalence and genotypes differ substantially from one population to another worldwide. Although cervical cancer is the leading cancer in Cambodia, nothing is known regarding the prevalence of HPV infection or the genotypic distribution in the country. As in other parts of the world, epidemiological studies in Southeast Asia has shown that the distribution of cervical HPV genotypes differ across populations, and oncogenic genotypes other than HPV-16 and -18 are frequent [6-10]. Two commercial vaccines targeting oncogenic HPV-16 and -18 have been shown to be efficacious in reducing both chronic HPV infection, and cervical and vulvovaginal disease related to these genotypes in women [11-13]. These two vaccines have been introduced in several countries and are increasingly becoming available in resource-constrained settings. However, their impact on prevention of HPV infection and cervical cancer may differ regionally, according to the genotype distribution. Accurate epidemiological data on HPV prevalence and genotypes in specific populations will assist public health authorities to plan for immunization implementation, and to guide future vaccine development.

Also of importance in planning clinical and public health responses is an understanding of the factors associated with acquiring cervical HPV infection. Factors detected so far include higher number of sexual partners, early age at first sexual intercourse, smoking, oral contraceptive use, inconsistent condom use, and other STI infections, including HIV [14-17]. The literature has shown that HIV-seropositive women are at greatly increased risk

for development of pre-malignant lesions and invasive cervical cancer compared to HIV-seronegative women [18-20]. Moreover, several studies have reported that the prevalence of single or multiple HPV infections and HPV viral load was higher among women infected with HIV [19,21,22]. Women engaged in sex work have multiple sex partners, and are consequently at higher risk of both HIV and HPV infection [6,9,23,24]. Understanding the determinants of cervical HPV infection is an essential step in developing effective interventions for the prevention of infection, and ultimately cervical cancer.

To date, nothing is known regarding cervical HPV prevalence, genotypic distribution, or risk factors in the Cambodian female population. To inform policy and guide further research, we undertook a study to examine cervical HPV genotypes and the associated risk factors among young FSW working in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Methods

Study setting

Cross-sectional data were obtained from a single baseline visit, in the Young Women’s Health Study 2 (YWHS-2). This prospective study, conducted from August 2009 to August 2010, investigated HIV/STI, sexual behaviors and drug use among women engaged in sex work in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; methods described previously in detail [25]. In brief, women working in brothels, entertainment establishments or on a freelance basis were enrolled in a one-year study, with quarterly follow-up visits to assess HIV and HPV infections and associated risks. The study was undertaken by a multi-disciplinary collaborative prevention research group of academic, governmental and community HIV prevention specialists from the U.S., Australia, and Cambodia.

Study population and recruitment

A convenience sample of women engaged in sex work was recruited through informational meetings, neighborhood outreach, and referrals by participants. Inclusion criteria for the study were: being female, aged 15–29 years, ethnic Cambodian, reporting at least two different sexual partners in the last month *or* engagement in transactional sex (sex in exchange for money, goods, services, or drugs) in the last three months. Eligible women who were interested in the study were invited to a community location used by various sex-worker organizations, where they were provided with comprehensive study information. A group informed consent process including oral review of the written informed consent, with explanations and opportunities for questions and answers, was conducted. Women who consented to participate were provided with appointment cards to present to the YWHS clinic site. Free transportation was offered to facilitate attendance at scheduled study visits.

All women negative for HIV and not pregnant were offered a three-dose regimen of a HPV quadrivalent vaccine (GardasilTM).

Data collection

A structured paper questionnaire was administered in Khmer by trained interviewers in a private room covering socio-demographic characteristics, occupational and sexual risk, alcohol and drug use exposures. Client-centered risk reduction counseling was provided, and participants were offered testing for HIV and HPV. HIV results were disclosed to participants and women infected with HIV received counseling and were referred for free medical evaluation and treatment, where indicated.

HPV and HIV testing

Cervical specimens were collected by a medical doctor using a standard cytobrush technique and transported to University of California at San Francisco for HPV testing. HPV DNA was tested by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and genotyping was conducted using type-specific probes [21,26]. MY09/MY11 primer and probe method and Amplitaq Gold were used to amplify HPV sequences [15,27]. Beta-globin primers were used as an internal positive control for the presence of human DNA. As a negative control, amplification of the reaction mixture was performed with all components except the target DNA. Samples were dot blotted and probed for HPV DNA using a chemiluminescent procedure with a consensus probe mixture. Samples determined to be consensus-probe positive will then be reanalyzed for the presence of 29 individual HPV types, as well as for a mixture of 10 less common HPV types. Samples were classified as HPV-positive or HPV-negative based on the results of the consensus probe. If a sample was consensus probe-positive but negative for all 39 HPV types, it was considered to have an unknown HPV type. HPV infection was classified as high risk (types 16, 18, 26/69, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 53, 56, 58, 59, 66, 68, 73 or 82) or low risk (types 6, 11, 32/42, 54, 61, 62, 67, 70, 71, 72, 81, 83 or 84) based on strength of association of specific HPV types with invasive cervical cancer[28].

HIV serology with venous blood was performed using two rapid tests; Uni-Gold Recombigen^(TM) HIV rapid HIV test (Trinity Biotech USA, Jamestown, NY) and the Clairview HIV 1/2 STAT-PAK (Inverness Medical Diagnostics, Waltham, MA). HIV-positive and discordant samples were confirmed by HIV-1 immunoblot. HIV specimen testing occurred at the Cambodian National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) laboratory.

Ethical review

The study protocol was reviewed and approved by the Cambodian National Ethical Committee, the Committee

on Human Research at UCSF and the University of New South Wales Human Research Ethics Committee.

Measures

Outcome variables were “any HPV infection” and “multiple HPV infection” (two or more genotypes). Sociodemographic variables included age, marital status, education and number of children. Based on sex work activities in the past 30 days, women were classified as working in either 1) entertainment establishments (beer gardens, bars, karaoke, and night clubs) or 2) working as freelance FSW in streets and parks or in brothels. The promulgation of anti-sex-trafficking and sexual exploitation laws enacted in 2008 has resulted in the closure of brothels and the displacement of many FSW to entertainment establishments or outdoor settings. At the time this study was conducted (2009–2010) most of the brothels were closed and only five women reported working in brothels. Drug and alcohol use variables included recent (last 3 months) amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) use, recent binge use of drug, number of days of alcohol use and the number of days drunk (past month) [29]. Recent binge of drug was assessed by asking participants if they had used any drugs for more than 48 hours continuously without sleep in the last 3 months. Variables related to sexual behaviors included age of first sexual intercourse, number of sexual partners (last month), number of new sexual partners (last month) and condom use with last paying and non-paying partner. Condom use was classified as “consistent” if the participant reported always using a condom. Previously-diagnosed STI were assessed by asking participants if a doctor, nurse, or other health care provider had ever told them that they had been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection.

Statistical analyses

Data were double entered into a database software (Access, Microsoft Corp., Redmond, WA, USA) and transferred into STATA 11.0 (STATA, College Station, TX, USA) for statistical analyses. Bivariate logistic regression analyses were performed to identify associations between socio-demographics, drug and alcohol use, sexual behaviors, HIV and STI infections and HPV outcomes: 1) “any HPV infection”, and 2) “multiple HPV infection (≥ 2)”. Multivariate logistic regression models were built according to a conceptual framework where variables were entered as groups in steps [30]: 1) socio-demographics; 2) drug and alcohol use; 3) sexual behaviors; 4) HIV and STI infections. First, sociodemographic variables (group 1) with a level of significance in bivariate analysis of $p < 0.20$ were included in the model in a step-wise backward approach, leading to our first model including only sociodemographic variables associated

with the outcome at $p < 0.10$. Other variables were then entered into the model in groups using the same step-wise backward procedure, adjusting for the variable included in the precedent model. In addition, variables excluded in the earlier steps of the modeling were added in the final model to assess their associations with the outcome variable in the presence of the other variable or their possible confounding effect. Only variables significant at $p < 0.05$, important confounders and potential explanatory variables were retained in the final model. Analyses were performed using STATA 11.0 (STATA, College Station, TX).

Results

The prevalence of HIV was 15.8% among 220 participants. Cervical HPV DNA was detected in 41.1% (90/220) of women; HPV prevalence was 34.4% (64/186) among HIV negative women and 78.8% (26/33) among those who were HIV positive. Almost a quarter (23.2%) were infected with at least one oncogenic high-risk (HR-HPV) genotype and 17.7% with at least one low risk subtype (LR-HPV). HPV-51 (5.0%; 11/220) and HPV-16 (4.6%; 10/220) were the most common HR-HPV genotypes present, followed by HPV-52 and HPV-53 (each 3.2%; 7/220). Among those infected with LR-HPV genotypes, HPV-70 was the

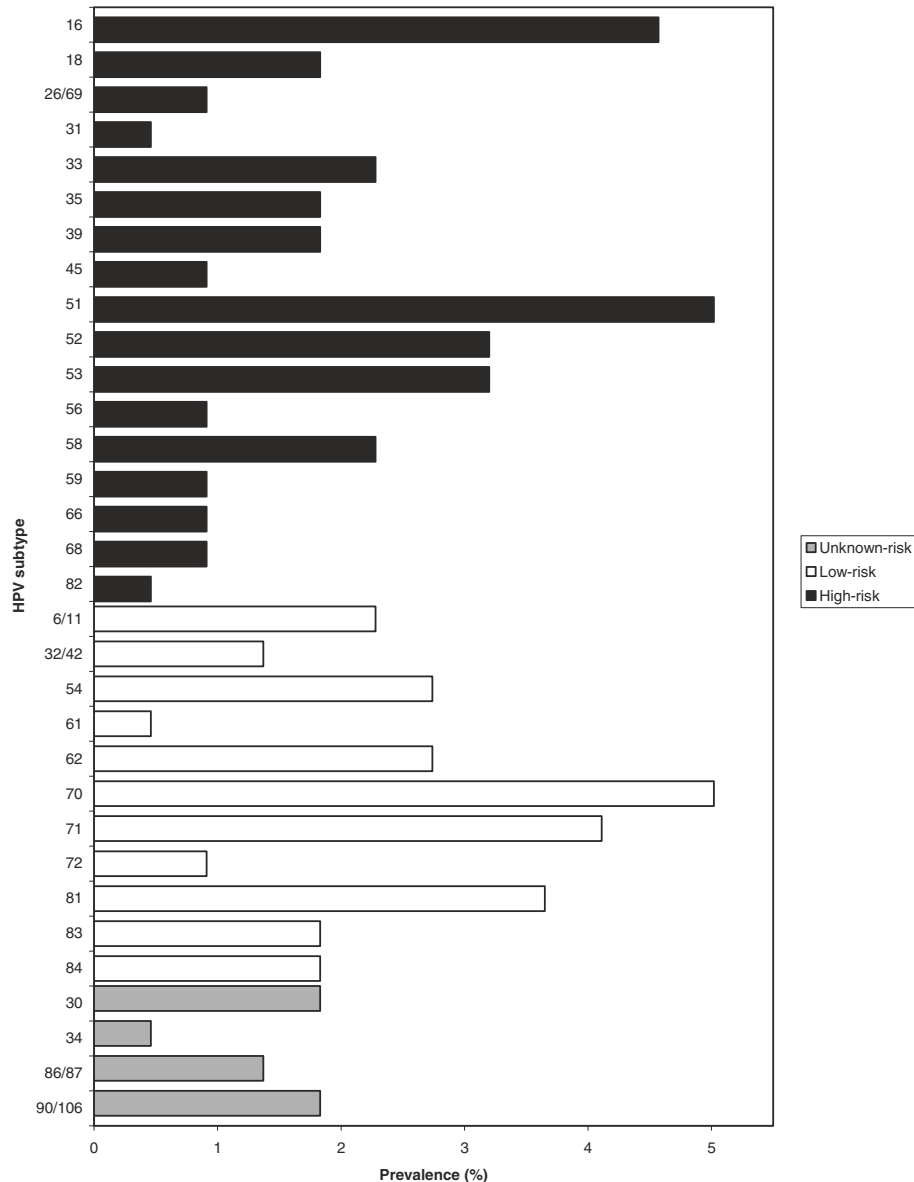


Figure 1 Prevalence of different cervical HPV genotypes among young women engaged in sex work participating in the Young Women's Health Study in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

most common (5.0%; 11/220), followed by HPV-71 (4.1%; 9/220) and HPV-81 (3.7%; 8/220) (Figure 1). Thirty-six women (16.8%) were infected with multiple cervical HPV genotypes and four women (1.8%) had five or more different genotypes (Figure 2).

Table 1 shows sociodemographic characteristics, drug and alcohol use, sexual behaviors, HIV and STI infections and their associations with any or multiple cervical HPV infection. Participants' median age was 26 years (IQR 22, 28), almost a quarter (22.4%) had no education, and 41.6% were widowed, divorced or separated. Women reported working in sex work for a median of 3.5 years (interquartile range (IQR 2.5, 6.3) and most (68.0%) were working in the entertainment sector. Alcohol and ATS use were prevalent. Median number of days drinking and being drunk in the last month were 15 (IQR 4, 29) and 3 (IQR 0, 10) days, respectively), and the number of days of drinking was inversely associated with prevalent HPV ($p \leq 0.05$). Women who reported recent ATS use, including binge use, had significantly higher risk of cervical HPV infection (any or multiple). Women reported a median of 6 (IQR 4, 15) sexual partners in the last month and many were new (median = 3; IQR 1, 6). Condom use during the last sexual intercourse was high with paying partners (90.8%), but low with non-paying partners (16.8%), mainly boyfriends and husbands. Almost sixty percent (58.7%) reported ever been diagnosed with a STI. The prevalence of any or multiple cervical HPV infection was significantly ($p \leq 0.01$) higher among women who worked as freelance in streets/parks or in brothels (58.6% for any HPV and 33.8% for multiple infection) compared with those working in entertainment establishments (32.9% and 8.7%). FSW who reported more sexual partners or new partners (≥ 16 compared to less than 16) were more likely to have any or multiple cervical HPV infection. The prevalence of HPV (any or multiple) was significantly higher among HIV-infected

women and those who reported having had a previous STI diagnosis (Table 1).

Table 2 shows multivariate logistic regression analyses of risk factors for having any or multiple cervical HPV infection. Of the sociodemographic and drug and alcohol use variables, only being a freelance or brothel-based FSW and recent ATS use were significantly ($p \leq 0.05$) associated with having any HPV infection. However, these associations were not non-significant when number of sexual partners (last month) was entered in the model. In the final multivariate model, higher number of sexual partners (AOR 1.05; 95% CI: 1.01-1.09) and being infected with HIV (AOR 7.96; 95% CI: 2.80-22.65) were the only variables independently and significantly associated with having any cervical HPV infection. Working as a freelance FSW or in a brothel was significantly associated with multiple cervical HPV infection types. However the association was attenuated when recent binge use of drugs and number of sexual partners were entered into the model. Reporting recent binge use of drug was independently associated with having multiple cervical HPV infection (AOR 3.45; 95% CI: 1.32-9.03), as was having more sexual partners (AOR 1.09; 95% CI: 1.03-1.16) and having HIV infection (AOR 5.25; 95% CI: 1.95-14.14).

Discussion

In this first epidemiological study of cervical HPV infection in Cambodia, we found that HPV infection was common (41.1%) among women engaged in sex work in Phnom Penh. The prevalence of cervical HPV is comparable to that observed in FSW in Japan (48%)[31], Korea (47%)[23], Tunisia 43.8%[32], Senegal (43%)[33], and Bulgaria (43.4%)[34], but somewhat lower than other locales including Vietnam (85%)[6], Kenya (55.6%)[35], Peru 65.8%[36] and the Philippines (57.2%)[9]. The mean age of FSW in these studies ranged from 24–31 years old, similar to our study (mean 26 years old). Variations in cervical HPV prevalence reported by these studies may be attributable to the use of different HPV assays, differences in FSW populations, or sampling. The high cervical HPV prevalence found among women engaged in sex working Phnom Penh likely reflects increased sexual exposure, that could lead to higher risk of cervical cancer in this vulnerable population.

In this population of Cambodian FSW, HPV-51 was the most prevalent oncogenic genotype, followed by HPV-16. Other dominant HR-HPV genotypes included HPV-52 and HPV-53, while prevalence of HPV-18 was lower. HPV-70, HPV-71 and HPV-81 were the most frequent low-risk genotypes observed. This is consistent with other epidemiological studies conducted in Southeast Asia where infection with oncogenic genotypes such as HPV-51 and HPV-52 was common [6-10]. However, a wide variation in genotype distribution has been

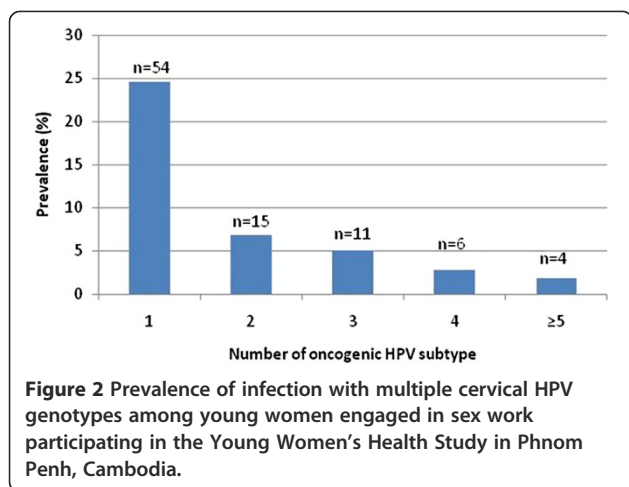


Table 1 Characteristics and prevalence of any and multiple cervical HPV infection among women engaged in sex work participating in the Young Women's Health Study in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Characteristic	Prevalence of characteristic		Prevalence of any HPV infection		Prevalence of multiple HPV (≥ 2 genotypes) infection	
	N (%)	N (%)	OR (95% CI)	N (%)	OR (95% CI)	
Overall	220	90 (41.1)		37 (16.8)		
Sociodemographics						
Age (years): Median 26; IQR (22, 28)		1.00 (0.93-1.08) [†]		1.04 (0.94-1.15) [†]		
16-18	14 (6.4)	5 (35.7)	1.0	1 (7.1)	1.0	
19-24	71 (32.4)	29 (40.9)	1.20 (0.36-3.95)	11 (15.5)	2.38 (0.28-20.11)	
25-29	134 (42.8)	56 (41.8)	1.31 (0.42-4.13)	25 (18.5)	2.95 (0.37-23.64)	
Education (years): Median 4; IQR (1, 6)		0.93 (0.85-1.02) [†]		0.93 (0.82-1.05)		
None	49 (22.4)	23 (46.9)	1.0	12 (24.0)	1.0	
Primary (1-6 years)	124 (56.6)	54 (43.6)	0.85 (0.44-1.67)	20 (16.0)	0.60 (0.27-1.35)	
Secondary (7+ years)	46 (21.1)	13 (28.3)	0.46 (0.20-1.08)	5 (11.1)	0.40 (0.13-1.23)	
Marital status						
Never married	44 (20.1)	22 (50.0)	1.0	8 (17.8)	1.0	
Married-living together	84 (38.4)	36 (35.2)	0.75 (0.36-1.56)	18 (21.4)	1.26 (0.50-3.18)	
Widowed/Divorced/Separated	91 (41.6)	32 (42.9)	0.54 (0.26-1.13)	11 (12.1)	0.64 (0.24-1.71)	
Number of child: Median 1; IQR (0, 1)		0.80 (0.59-1.09) [†]		1.08 (0.74-1.58) [†]		
0	89 (40.6)	43 (48.3)	1.0	16 (17.8)	1.0	
1	78 (35.6)	28 (35.9)	0.60 (0.32-1.15)	11 (14.1)	0.76 (0.33-1.75)	
More than 2	52 (23.7)	19 (36.5)	0.54 (0.26-1.13)	10 (19.2)	1.10 (0.46-2.64)	
Type of sex venue (last 30 days)						
Entertainment	149 (68.0)	49 (32.9)	1.0	13 (8.7)	1.0	
Freelances/brothels	70 (32.0)	41 (58.6)	2.89 (1.61-5.18)**	24 (33.8)	5.34 (2.52-11.33)**	
Drug and alcohol use						
ATS use (last 3 months)						
No	160 (72.7)	53 (33.1)	1.0	18 (11.3)	1.0	
Yes	60 (27.3)	37 (62.7)	3.40 (1.82-6.32)**	19 (31.7)	3.66 (1.76-7.60)**	
Binge of drugs (last 3 months)						
No	179 (81.7)	65 (36.3)	1.0	22 (12.3)	1.0	
Yes	40 (18.3)	25 (62.5)	2.93 (1.44-5.94)**	15 (36.6)	4.12 (1.89-8.95)**	
Number of days of drinking alcohol (last month):						
		0.98 (0.95-0.99) ^{†*}		0.97 (0.94-0.99) ^{†*}		
0 - 4	57 (26.5)	32 (56.1)	1.0	16 (27.6)	1.0	
5 - 19	57 (25.9)	20 (35.1)	0.40 (0.19-0.86) ^{†*}	8 (14.3)	0.44 (0.17-1.12)	
> 20	105 (47.7)	38 (36.2)	0.45 (0.24-0.88) ^{†*}	13 (12.3)	0.37 (0.16-0.83)*	
Number of days drunk (last month):						
		0.99 (0.95-1.03)		0.98 (0.93-1.03)		
0 - 4	123 (56.2)	57 (46.3)	1.0	27 (21.8)	1.0	
5 - 19	72 (32.9)	22 (30.6)	0.51 (0.28-0.94) ^{†*}	6 (8.3)	0.33 (0.13-0.83)*	
> 20	24 (11.0)	11 (45.8)	0.98 (0.41-2.36)	4 (16.7)	0.72 (0.23-2.28)	
Sexual behaviors						
Age at first sexual intercourse						
≤ 15	37 (16.9)	19 (51.4)	1.0	8 (21.6)	1.0	
> 15	180 (82.2)	70 (38.9)	1.00 (0.97-1.04)	28 (15.5)	1.02 (0.99-1.05)	

Table 1 Characteristics and prevalence of any and multiple cervical HPV infection among women engaged in sex work participating in the Young Women's Health Study in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (Continued)

Number of sexual partners (last month):			1.06 (1.03-1.09) †**		1.06 (1.03-1.09) †**
≤5	99 (45.2)	31 (31.3)	1.0	9 (9.1)	1.0
6 – 15	71 (32.4)	27 (38.0)	1.35 (0.71-2.55)	8 (11.3)	1.27 (0.46-3.47)
≥ 16	49 (22.4)	32 (65.3)	4.13 (2.00-8.53)**	20 (40.0)	6.67 (2.74-16.21)**
Number of new partners (last month):			1.09 (1.04-1.14) †**		
0	43 (19.6)	16 (37.2)	1.0	4 (9.3)	1.0
1-5	120 (54.8)	40 (33.3)	0.85 (0.41-1.74)	18 (14.8)	1.70 (0.54-5.35)
>6	56 (25.6)	34 (60.1)	2.61 (1.15-5.91)*	25 (26.8)	3.57 (1.09-11.69)*
Condom use with last paying partner					
Consistent (always)	197 (90.8)	83 (42.1)	1.0	33 (16.7)	1.0
Inconsistent	20 (9.2)	6 (30.0)	0.59 (0.22-1.60)	3 (15.0)	0.88 (0.24-3.18)
Condom use with last non- paying partner					
Consistent (always)	18 (16.8)	7 (38.9)	1.0	2 (11.1)	1.0
Inconsistent	89 (83.2)	34 (38.2)	0.97 (0.34-2.75)	12 (13.5)	1.25 (0.25-6.12)
HIV and STI infections					
HIV result					
Negative	186 (84.9)	64 (34.4)	1.0	22 (11.8)	1.0
Positive	33 (15.1)	26 (78.8)	7.08 (2.91-17.20)**	15 (44.1)	5.89 (2.62-13.23)**
Previously diagnosed STI					
No	91 (41.7)	29 (31.9)	1.0	12 (13.2)	1.60 (0.76-3.38)
Yes	127 (58.3)	61 (48.)	1.98 (1.13-3.47)*	25 (19.5)	

† = variable use as continuous * = $p \leq 0.05$ ** = $p \leq 0.01$.

observed in different Southeast Asian countries; HPV-16 was most commonly detected in Thailand and Vietnam, but the second most frequent in Indonesia and Philippines [7]. Similar to Cambodia, HPV-18 was the fourth most common oncogenic HPV genotype in normal cytology in Vietnam, and HPV-51 was the most frequently observed genotype in Indonesia [7,37]. This indicates that many HR-HPV genotypes other than HPV-16 and HPV-18 may play important roles in cervical carcinogenesis in Cambodia, and elsewhere in Southeast Asia. Two commercial HPV vaccines targeting only oncogenic HPV-16 and HPV-18 (Gardasil™ and Cervarix™) have been approved by national regulatory agencies and are currently used in several countries. To date, Cervarix™ is the only vaccine that has been approved in Cambodia but access is limited. Our results and those from other epidemiological studies clearly show that currently available vaccines do not cover the most prevalent HR-HPV genotypes found in Cambodia and other Southeast Asian countries. However, some cross-protection with other HPV subtypes has been observed for Cervarix™ [38,39]. These findings underscore the potential limited impact of existing HPV vaccines on cervical cancer prevention in Southeast Asia, despite the cross protection that has been observed [11].

Consistent with previous studies, women infected with HIV were more likely to be infected with any cervical HPV genotype compared with HIV-negative women. [21,22,40]. Simultaneous infection with multiple cervical HPV genotypes was also higher among women infected with HIV, which is consistent with other studies [35,40]. A possible explanation is that HIV and HPV are both sexually transmitted infections, sharing common modes of transmission. Biological mechanisms involving the immune system might also be implicated; the immune response elicited by HPV infection and associated clearance of HPV infection, could predispose women to HIV acquisition [41-43]. Thus, women in the process of clearing an HPV infection might be at higher risk of HIV infection [44]. Immunosuppression caused by HIV infection can also increase susceptibility to viral acquisition, lead to inability to clear HPV infection or potentiate reactivation of latent HPV infections [18,22]. Persistent cervical HPV infection is a major cause of cervical cancer and the fact that it is more common among HIV-infected women makes primary prevention by immunization prior to acquisition of HPV more crucial. Two recent studies have shown that the quadrivalent vaccine Gardasil™ was safe and immunogenic in cohorts of HIV-infected children and men infected with HIV [45,46].

Table 2 Variables independently associated with prevalence of any (A) or multiple (B) cervical HPV infection among women engaged in sex work participating in the Young Women's Health Study in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (n = 220)

Variables	A. Any HPV infection			
	Model 1 AOR (95% CI)	Model 2 AOR (95% CI)	Model 3 AOR (95% CI)	Final model AOR (95% CI)
Sociodemographics				
Number of child	0.77 (0.56-1.05) [†]	0.84 (0.61-1.16) [†]	0.80 (0.57-1.11) [†]	0.70 (0.49-1.01) [†]
Type of sex venue (last 30 days)				
Entertainment/others	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Freelances/brothels	3.00 (1.66-5.43)**	2.11 (1.08-4.12)*	1.30 (0.60-2.84)	0.77 (0.32-1.88)
Drugs and alcohol use				
ATS use (last 3 months)				
No		1.0	1.0	1.0
Yes		2.27 (1.11-4.62)*	1.85 (0.88-3.89)	1.85 (0.83-4.12)
Sexual behaviors				
Number of sexual partners (last month)			1.05 (1.01-1.08) ^{†*}	1.05 (1.01-1.09) ^{†*}
<i>HIV and STI infections</i>				
Previously diagnosed STI				
No				1.0
Yes				1.55 (0.82-2.92)
HIV result				
Negative				1.0
Positive				7.96 (2.80-22.65)**
B. Multiple HPV infection (≥2 genotypes)				
Variables	Model 1 OR (95% CI)	Model 2 AOR (95% CI)	Model 3 AOR (95% CI)	Final Model [§] AOR (95% CI)
Sociodemographics				
Type of sex venue (last 30 days)				
Entertainment/others	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Freelances/brothels	5.34 (2.52-11.33)**	4.18 (1.90-9.21)**	3.56 (1.44-8.82)**	3.05 (1.05-8.84)*
Drugs and alcohol use				
Binge of drugs (last 3 months)				
No		1.0	1.0	1.0
Yes		2.58 (1.12-5.96)*	2.66 (1.09-6.51)**	3.45 (1.32-9.03)*
Sexual behaviors				
Number of sexual partners (last month)			1.07 (1.02-1.13) ^{†**}	1.09 (1.03-1.16) ^{†**}
Number of new sexual partners (last month)			0.91 (0.84-0.99) ^{†*}	0.90 (0.82-0.99) ^{†*}
HIV result				
Negative				1.0
Positive				5.25 (1.95-14.14)**

† = variable use as continuous § = Final model adjusted for education * = p ≤ 0.05 ** = p ≤ 0.01.

This is the first study to show that recent binge use of ATS is associated with multiple HPV genotypes, even after controlling for sexual behaviors, HIV and STI infection. ATS use has emerged as a potential significant problem among FSW in Cambodia, and Southeast Asia more generally [29,47]. ATS has been associated with

incident STI, including HIV among many groups [48,49] including FSW [29,50,51]. ATS users are at higher risk of STIs due to their risky sexual behaviors, but also because of their exposure to social networks with high HIV/STI prevalence. Drug use, especially stimulant use, has also been linked to perturbations of the immune

system in both animal models and humans, possibly leading to increased risk of HIV and STI infection [52-56]. A recent study has shown that cocaine use was associated with increased risk of oncogenic and nononcogenic HPV infection among women [57]. The mechanisms by which ATS is associated with increased risk of HPV infection is unknown but the immune response to HPV infection might be altered by the use of stimulants such as cocaine and ATS. HIV-infected women are already immunosuppressed and prone to numerous co-infections. ATS use combined with HIV seropositivity could synergistically act on suppression of the immune system and increase susceptibility to HPV infection. Further clinical and laboratory research is needed to better understand the immunomodulatory effects of stimulants on HPV infection and the underlying mechanisms in a context of high HIV prevalence.

Women working as freelance FSW or in brothels were at higher risk of being infected with multiple cervical HPV genotypes. Our group and others have shown that these women are more susceptible to HIV and STI infection compared with their counterparts working in entertainment and service venues [25,58,59]. Sex work environments influence behaviors, and FSW working as freelancers or in brothels may engage in riskier sexual practices, be more likely to use drugs, and have a greater likelihood of having HIV or STI infected partners. In our study, prevalence of any or multiple cervical HPV infection increased with the number of sexual partners reported by FSW, a finding that has been well documented by others [15,16].

Our study has several limitations. The cross-sectional design of this study does not permit us to conclude causality between HPV infection and risk factors studied here with certainty, as experimental design would. Cervical HPV may not necessarily represent total HPV infection, which can also include oral, vaginal/vulvar, and anal HPV. Self-reported data on sexual behaviors and drug use may introduce response bias associated with socially acceptable or desired answers. Measuring condom use with the last partner might not be representative of general condom use behaviors. However, this would result in conservative estimates of risk, biasing our results toward the null. Finally, participants in this study were not sampled probabilistically; as a consequence our results may not be generalizable to all young women in sex work in Phnom Penh or Cambodia. Nevertheless, our sample included women from a wide range of sex work venues and captured a wide breadth of this high-risk occupational group in Phnom Penh.

Conclusions

Our findings highlight the burden of cervical HPV infection among FSW in Phnom Penh and, in particular the

vulnerability of women infected with HIV and those using ATS. Routine screening for cervical cancer is not available for most Cambodian women and few if any treatment options exist upon diagnosis with pre-malignant lesions or cervical cancer. These first results on prevalence of cervical HPV infection and the genotypes present among Cambodian women offer important insights into the need for cervical cancer screening strategies and immunization programs in this country. However, more epidemiological research is needed to examine HPV infection at a population level in Cambodia and, in particular to inform the development of effective prevention interventions for young and high-risk women. Paying for sex is widely accepted among men in Cambodia and the number of women engaged in sex work has grown substantially in the past few years; estimated at 34,193 [60]. Finally, our findings underscore the urgent need of for accessible HPV and cervical cancer prevention and treatment, as well as the importance of combining prevention and treatment of drug use with HIV prevention and reproductive health intervention programs targeting FSW in Cambodia.

Competing interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contribution

MCC, KP, ESS, NS, KS, JLE, JK, LM and JP designed the YWHS prospective study and contributed to data acquisition. MCC managed the literature search and summaries of previous related studies, conceived the design of the analysis and undertook the statistical analysis. KP, JK, JP and MCC contributed to data interpretation. MCC wrote the first draft of the manuscript and made modifications after comments from the co-authors. All authors contributed with comments and suggestions and have approved the final manuscript.

Authors' information

¹On behalf of the Young Women's Health Study Collaborative (John Kaldor, Serey Phal Kien, Lisa Maher, Tooru Nemoto, Kimberly Page, Joel Palefsky, Vonthanak Sapphon, Mean Chhi Vun).

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to acknowledge the coordinated efforts and dedication of the research teams at the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology, and STDs and the Cambodian Women's Development Agency. We also want to thank Maria Da Costa from University of California San Francisco and Dr. Soriyann from the National Maternal and Child Health Center (NMCHC) in Phnom Penh for their help with the laboratory analyses. Finally, we are indebted to all the Cambodian women who agreed to participate in this study and grateful for the privilege to work with them. This work was supported by the National Institute of Health "U01AI0154241", "1R21 DA025441", and "1R01NR010995". M-C Couture received financial support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (postdoctoral fellowship award). HPV quadrivalent vaccine (GardasilTM) was generously donated by Merck. The NIH and Merck had no further role in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing and the submission of the paper for publication.

Author details

¹University of California San Francisco, Global Health Sciences, 50 Beale street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94105, USA. ²National Institute for HIV, AIDS, Dermatology and STDs, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. ³Cambodian Women's Development Agency, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. ⁴The Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

Received: 29 November 2011 Accepted: 29 June 2012
Published: 28 July 2012

References

1. Ferlay J, Shin HR, Bray F, Forman D, Mathers C, Parkin DM: *GLOBOCAN 2008 v1.2, Cancer Incidence and Mortality Worldwide: IARC CancerBase No. 10* [Internet]. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer; 2010.
2. Monchy D, Lieng CR, Kruij LS, Kahler K, Eav S: **Diagnosis and treatment of invasive cervical cancer in Cambodia (apropos of 35 cases).** *Bull Soc Pathol Exot* 2005, **98**(3):183–186.
3. Bosch FX, Manos MM, Munoz N, Sherman M, Jansen AM, Peto J, Schiffman MH, Moreno V, Kurman R, Shah KV: **Prevalence of human papillomavirus in cervical cancer: a worldwide perspective. International biological study on cervical cancer (IBSCC) Study Group.** *J Natl Cancer Inst* 1995, **87**(11):796–802.
4. Franco EL, Rohan TE, Villa LL: **Epidemiologic evidence and human papillomavirus infection as a necessary cause of cervical cancer.** *J Natl Cancer Inst* 1999, **91**(6):506–511.
5. Castellsague X: **Natural history and epidemiology of HPV infection and cervical cancer.** *Gynecol Oncol* 2008, **110**(3 Suppl 2):S4–S7.
6. Hernandez BY, Vu Nguyen T: **Cervical human papillomavirus infection among female sex workers in southern Vietnam.** *Infect Agent Cancer* 2008, **3**:7.
7. Domingo EJ, Noviani R, Noor MR, Ngelangel CA, Limpaphayom KK, Thuan TV, Louie KS, Quinn MA: **Epidemiology and prevention of cervical cancer in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.** *Vaccine* 2008, **26**(Suppl 12):M71–M79.
8. Vet JN, de Boer MA, van den Akker BE, Siregar B, Lisnawati, Budiningsih S, Tyasmorowati D, Moestikaningsih, Cornain S, Peters AA, et al: **Prevalence of human papillomavirus in Indonesia: a population-based study in three regions.** *Br J Cancer* 2008, **99**(1):214–218.
9. Miyashita M, Agdamag DM, Sasagawa T, Matsushita K, Salud LM, Salud CO, Saikawa K, Leano PS, Pagcaliwagan T, Acuna J, et al: **High-risk HPV types in lesions of the uterine cervix of female commercial sex workers in the Philippines.** *J Med Virol* 2009, **81**(3):545–551.
10. Chansaenroj J, Lurchachaiwong W, Termrungruanglert W, Tresukosol D, Niruthisard S, Trivijitsilp P, Sampatanukul P, Poovorawan Y: **Prevalence and genotypes of human papillomavirus among Thai women.** *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev* 2010, **11**(1):117–122.
11. Harper DM, Franco EL, Wheeler CM, Moscicki AB, Romanowski B, Roteli-Martins CM, Jenkins D, Schuid A, Costa Clemens SA, Dubin G: **Sustained efficacy up to 4.5 years of a bivalent L1 virus-like particle vaccine against human papillomavirus types 16 and 18: follow-up from a randomised control trial.** *Lancet* 2006, **367**(9518):1247–1255.
12. Joura EA, Leodolter S, Hernandez-Avila M, Wheeler CM, Perez G, Koutsky LA, Garland SM, Harper DM, Tang GW, Ferris DG, et al: **Efficacy of a quadrivalent prophylactic human papillomavirus (types 6, 11, 16, and 18) L1 virus-like-particle vaccine against high-grade vulval and vaginal lesions: a combined analysis of three randomised clinical trials.** *Lancet* 2007, **369**(9574):1693–1702.
13. Lu B, Kumar A, Castellsague X, Giuliano AR: **Efficacy and safety of prophylactic vaccines against cervical HPV infection and diseases among women: a systematic review & meta-analysis.** *BMC Infect Dis* 2011, **11**:13.
14. Palefsky JM, Holly EA: **Molecular virology and epidemiology of human papillomavirus and cervical cancer.** *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 1995, **4**(4):415–428.
15. Burk RD, Ho GY, Beardsley L, Lempa M, Peters M, Bierman R: **Sexual behavior and partner characteristics are the predominant risk factors for genital human papillomavirus infection in young women.** *J Infect Dis* 1996, **174**(4):679–689.
16. Sellors JW, Karwalajtys TL, Kaczorowski J, Mahony JB, Lytwyn A, Chong S, Sparrow J, Lorincz A: **Incidence, clearance and predictors of human papillomavirus infection in women.** *Cmaj* 2003, **168**(4):421–425.
17. Trottier H, Franco EL: **The epidemiology of genital human papillomavirus infection.** *Vaccine* 2006, **24**(Suppl 1):S1–S15.
18. Hawes SE, Critchlow CW, Faye Niang MA, Diouf MB, Diop A, Toure P, Aziz Kasse A, Dembele B, Salif Sow P, Coll-Seck AM, et al: **Increased risk of high-grade cervical squamous intraepithelial lesions and invasive cervical cancer among African women with human immunodeficiency virus type 1 and 2 infections.** *J Infect Dis* 2003, **188**(4):555–563.
19. Palefsky JM: **Cervical human papillomavirus infection and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia in women positive for human immunodeficiency virus in the era of highly active antiretroviral therapy.** *Curr Opin Oncol* 2003, **15**(5):382–388.
20. Adjarlolo-Johnson G, Unger ER, Boni-Ouattara E, Toure-Coulibaly K, Maurice C, Vernon SD, Sissoko M, Greenberg AE, Wiktor SZ, Chorba TL: **Assessing the relationship between HIV infection and cervical cancer in Cote d'Ivoire: a case-control study.** *BMC Infect Dis* 2010, **10**:242.
21. Palefsky JM, Minkoff H, Kalish LA, Levine A, Sacks HS, Garcia P, Young M, Melnick S, Miotti P, Burk R: **Cervicovaginal human papillomavirus infection in human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV)-positive and high-risk HIV-negative women.** *J Natl Cancer Inst* 1999, **91**(3):226–236.
22. Ahdieh L, Klein RS, Burk R, Cu-Uvin S, Schuman P, Duerr A, Safaiean M, Astemborski J, Daniel R, Shah K: **Prevalence, incidence, and type-specific persistence of human papillomavirus in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-positive and HIV-negative women.** *J Infect Dis* 2001, **184**(6):682–690.
23. Choi BS, Kim O, Park MS, Kim KS, Jeong JK, Lee JS: **Genital human papillomavirus genotyping by HPV oligonucleotide microarray in Korean commercial sex workers.** *J Med Virol* 2003, **71**(3):440–445.
24. Mak R, Van Renterghem L, Cuvelier C: **Cervical smears and human papillomavirus typing in sex workers.** *Sex Transm Infect* 2004, **80**(2):118–120.
25. Couture MC, Sansothy N, Sapphon V, Phal S, Sichan K, Stein E, Evans J, Maher L, Kaldor J, Yun MC, et al: **Young women engaged in sex work in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, have high incidence of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, and amphetamine-type stimulant use: new challenges to HIV prevention and risk.** *Sex Transm Dis* 2010, **38**(1):33–39.
26. Strickler HD, Palefsky JM, Shah KV, Anastos K, Klein RS, Minkoff H, Duerr A, Massad LS, Celentano DD, Hall C, et al: **Human papillomavirus type 16 and immune status in human immunodeficiency virus-seropositive women.** *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2003, **95**(14):1062–1071.
27. Qu W, Jiang G, Cruz Y, Chang CJ, Ho GY, Klein RS, Burk RD: **PCR detection of human papillomavirus: comparison between MY09/MY11 and GP5+/GP6+ primer systems.** *J Clin Microbiol* 1997, **35**(6):1304–1310.
28. Munoz N, Bosch FX, de Sanjose S, Herrero R, Castellsague X, Shah KV, Snijders PJ, Meijer CJ: **Epidemiologic classification of human papillomavirus types associated with cervical cancer.** *N Engl J Med* 2003, **348**(6):518–527.
29. Couture MC, Evans JL, Sothy NS, Stein ES, Sichan K, Maher L, Page K: **Correlates of amphetamine-type stimulant use and associations with HIV-related risks among young women engaged in sex work in Phnom Penh.** Drug Alcohol Depend: Cambodia; 2011.
30. Boerma JT, Weir SS: **Integrating demographic and epidemiological approaches to research on HIV/AIDS: the proximate-determinants framework.** *J Infect Dis* 2005, **191**(Suppl 1):S61–S67.
31. Ishi K, Suzuki F, Saito A, Kubota T: **Prevalence of human papillomavirus, Chlamydia trachomatis, and Neisseria gonorrhoeae in commercial sex workers in Japan.** *Infect Dis Obstet Gynecol* 2000, **8**(5–6):235–239.
32. De Marco F, Houissa-Kchouk F, Khelifa R, Marcante ML: **High-risk HPV types in Tunisia. A pilot study reveals an unexpectedly high prevalence of types 58 and 82 and lack of HPV 18 among female prostitutes.** *J Med Virol* 2006, **78**(7):950–953.
33. Langley CL, Benga-De E, Critchlow CW, Ndoye I, Mbengue-Ly MD, Kuypers J, Woto-Gaye G, Mboup S, Bergeron C, Holmes KK, et al: **HIV-1, HIV-2, human papillomavirus infection and cervical neoplasia in high-risk African women.** *AIDS* 1996, **10**(4):413–417.
34. Shikova E, Todorova I, Ganchev G, Kouseva-Dragneva V, Kalascheva-Zaimova P: **Prevalence of human papillomavirus infection among female sex workers in Bulgaria.** *Int J STD AIDS* 2011, **22**(5):278–280.
35. Luchters SM, Vanden Broeck D, Chersich MF, Nel A, Delva W, Mandaliya K, Depuydt CE, Claeys P, Bogers JP, Temmerman M: **Association of HIV infection with distribution and viral load of HPV types in Kenya: a survey with 820 female sex workers.** *BMC Infect Dis* 2010, **10**:18.
36. Brown VL, Jane White KA: **The role of optimal control in assessing the most cost-effective implementation of a vaccination programme: HPV as a case study.** *Math Biosci* 2011, **231**(2):126–134.
37. de Boer MA, Vet JN, Aziz MF, Cornain S, Purwoto G, van den Akker BE, Dijkman A, Peters AA, Fleuren GJ: **Human papillomavirus type 18 and other risk factors for cervical cancer in Jakarta, Indonesia.** *Int J Gynecol Cancer* 2006, **16**(5):1809–1814.

38. Paavonen J, Naud P, Salmeron J, Wheeler CM, Chow SN, Apter D, Kitchener H, Castellsague X, Teixeira JC, Skinner SR, et al: **Efficacy of human papillomavirus (HPV)-16/18 AS04-adjuvanted vaccine against cervical infection and precancer caused by oncogenic HPV types (PATRICIA): final analysis of a double-blind, randomised study in young women.** *Lancet* 2009, **374**(9686):301–314.
39. Wheeler CM, Castellsague X, Garland SM, Szarewski A, Paavonen J, Naud P, Salmeron J, Chow SN, Apter D, Kitchener H, et al: **Cross-protective efficacy of HPV-16/18 AS04-adjuvanted vaccine against cervical infection and precancer caused by non-vaccine oncogenic HPV types: 4-year end-of-study analysis of the randomised, double-blind PATRICIA trial.** *Lancet Oncol* 2012, **13**(1):100–110.
40. Clifford GM, Goncalves MA, Franceschi S: **Human papillomavirus types among women infected with HIV: a meta-analysis.** *AIDS* 2006, **20**(18):2337–2344.
41. Chin-Hong PV, Husnik M, Cranston RD, Colfax G, Buchbinder S, Da Costa M, Darragh T, Jones D, Judson F, Koblin B, et al: **Anal human papillomavirus infection is associated with HIV acquisition in men who have sex with men.** *AIDS* 2009, **23**(9):1135–1142.
42. Auvert B, Lissouba P, Cutler E, Zarca K, Puren A, Taljaard D: **Association of oncogenic and nononcogenic human papillomavirus with HIV incidence.** *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* 2010, **53**(1):111–116.
43. Veldhuijzen NJ, Vyankandondera J, van de Wijert JH: **HIV acquisition is associated with prior high-risk human papillomavirus infection among high-risk women in Rwanda.** *AIDS* 2010, **24**(14):2289–2292.
44. Smith-McCune KK, Shiboski S, Chirenje MZ, Magure T, Tuveson J, Ma Y, Da Costa M, Moscicki AB, Palefsky JM, Makunike-Mutasa R, et al: **Type-specific cervico-vaginal human papillomavirus infection increases risk of HIV acquisition independent of other sexually transmitted infections.** *PLoS One* 2010, **5**(4):e10094.
45. Wilkin T, Lee JY, Lensing SY, Stier EA, Goldstone SE, Berry JM, Jay N, Aboulafia D, Cohn DL, Einstein MH, et al: **Safety and immunogenicity of the quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine in HIV-1-infected men.** *J Infect Dis* 2010, **202**(8):1246–1253.
46. Levin MJ, Moscicki AB, Song LY, Fenton T, Meyer WA 3rd, Read JS, Handelsman EL, Nowak B, Sattler CA, Saah A, et al: **Safety and immunogenicity of a quadrivalent human papillomavirus (types 6, 11, 16, and 18) vaccine in HIV-infected children 7 to 12 years old.** *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* 2010, **55**(2):197–204.
47. Maher L, Phlong P, Mooney-Somers J, Keo S, Stein E, Couture MC, Page K: **Amphetamine-type stimulant use and HIV/STI risk behaviour among young female sex workers in Phnom Penh.** *The International journal on drug policy: Cambodia*; 2011.
48. Molitor F, Truax SR, Ruiz JD, Sun RK: **Association of methamphetamine use during sex with risky sexual behaviors and HIV infection among non-injection drug users.** *West J Med* 1998, **168**(2):93–97.
49. Buchacz K, McFarland W, Kellogg TA, Loeb L, Holmberg SD, Dilley J, Klausner JD: **Amphetamine use is associated with increased HIV incidence among men who have sex with men in San Francisco.** *AIDS* 2005, **19**(13):1423–1424.
50. Patterson TL, Semple SJ, Staines H, Lozada R, Orozovich P, Bucardo J, Philbin MM, Pu M, Fraga M, Amaro H, et al: **Prevalence and correlates of HIV infection among female sex workers in 2 Mexico-US border cities.** *J Infect Dis* 2008, **197**(5):728–732.
51. Liao M, Jiang Z, Zhang X, Kang D, Bi Z, Liu X, Fu J, Zhang N, Mao W, Jiang B, et al: **Syphilis and methamphetamine use among female sex workers in Shandong Province, China.** *Sex Transm Dis* 2010, **38**(1):57–62.
52. Minkoff HL, McCalla S, Delke I, Stevens R, Salwen M, Feldman J: **The relationship of cocaine use to syphilis and human immunodeficiency virus infections among inner city parturient women.** *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 1990, **163**(2):521–526.
53. Baldwin GC, Roth MD, Tashkin DP: **Acute and chronic effects of cocaine on the immune system and the possible link to AIDS.** *J Neuroimmunol* 1998, **83**(1–2):133–138.
54. Liang H, Wang X, Chen H, Song L, Ye L, Wang SH, Wang YJ, Zhou L, Ho WZ: **Methamphetamine enhances HIV infection of macrophages.** *Am J Pathol* 2008, **172**(6):1617–1624.
55. Nair MP, Saiyed ZM, Nair N, Gandhi NH, Rodriguez JW, Boukli N, Provencio-Vasquez E, Malow RM, Miguez-Burbano MJ: **Methamphetamine enhances HIV-1 infectivity in monocyte derived dendritic cells.** *J Neuroimmunol Pharmacol* 2009, **4**(1):129–139.
56. Tallozy Z, Martinez J, Joset D, Ray Y, Gacser A, Toussi S, Mizushima N, Nosanchuk JD, Goldstein H, Loike J, et al: **Methamphetamine inhibits antigen processing, presentation, and phagocytosis.** *PLoS Pathog* 2008, **4**(2):e28.
57. Minkoff H, Zhong Y, Strickler HD, Watts DH, Palefsky JM, Levine AM, D'Souza G, Howard AA, Plankey M, Massad LS, et al: **The relationship between cocaine use and human papillomavirus infections in HIV-seropositive and HIV-seronegative women.** *Infect Dis Obstet Gynecol* 2008, **2008**:587082.
58. Minh TT, Nhan DT, West GR, Durant TM, Jenkins RA, Huong PT, Valdiserri RO: **Sex workers in Vietnam: how many, how risky?** *AIDS Education and prevention: official publication of the International Society for AIDS Education* 2004, **16**(5):389–404.
59. Choi SY, Holroyd E: **The influence of power, poverty and agency in the negotiation of condom use for female sex workers in mainland China.** *Cult Health Sex* 2007, **9**(5):489–503.
60. NCHADS: *Ministry of Health National Center for HIV, AIDS, Dermatology and STDs. Annual Report 2006. In., vol. 2006.* Phnom Penh, Cambodia: National Center for HIV, AIDS, Dermatology and STD; 2006. <http://www.nchads.org/report.php>; Accessed December 18, 2008.

doi:10.1186/1471-2334-12-166

Cite this article as: Couture et al.: Cervical human papillomavirus infection among young women engaged in sex work in Phnom Penh, Cambodia: prevalence, genotypes, risk factors and association with HIV infection. *BMC Infectious Diseases* 2012 **12**:166.

Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit

