

Strategies for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Screening in Low Resource Settings

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Cervical cancer is highly preventable and can be easily treated if detected at early stages. However there is disproportionate high burden of cervical cancer incidence and mortality in low-middle income (LMIC) country settings that lack organised screening and prevention programs. Robust evidence for prevention and screening of cervical cancer is currently available. However there are barriers for country specific adoption and implementation. These pose unique challenges such as organising prevention and screening services delivery through the current health infrastructure, access to screening facilities, follow up management and adequate linkages for confirmatory diagnosis and subsequent treatment. Overall cervical cancer screening rates and cancer screening among women still remains suboptimal in many LMIC's. Considering the complexities involved in organisation, service uptake and delivery of population based cervical cancer prevention and screening programs, this article aims to provide evidence based appropriate, affordable and effective standardised cervical cancer prevention and screening guidelines that are operationally feasible to help adopt best practices for uniform adaptation and implementation leveraging with the existing public health care settings.

Cost-effective strategies and tools to reduce cervical cancer burden worldwide to mitigate the existing disparities in cervical cancer burden between low-resourced and high-resourced settings are needed. The current cervical cancer prevention and screening guidelines are drawn from the most robust evidence generated from the randomised trials and cross sectional studies undertaken in the socioeconomic, cultural and health systems context of varied geographic settings and therefore conform towards applicability for wide-scale, sustainable and uniform implementation of population based cervical cancer screening and prevention program.

Keywords: Cervical Cancer, screening, prevention

Biography:

Dr. Sharmila A Pimple, M.D, is Professor in the Department of Preventive Oncology at the Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. Dr. Pimple did her medical schooling and post graduation in Community Medicine at Grant Medical College, Mumbai University and leads the WHO Collaborating Centre for Cancer Prevention, Screening & Early Detection, WHO CC IND-59 [SEARO]. Dr. Pimple has successfully undertaken numerous research projects and International collaborative research trials in the capacity of Principal Investigator for evaluating various low cost technologies for cervical and oral cancer screening, including HPV Vaccine trials. She has played a prominent role in Capacity building, planning and implementing Tobacco Control and Tobacco cessation interventions in Hospital and workplace settings including National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) and Oral Health Program (ORHP) of Government of India. Dr. Pimple has contributed on the Technical Working and Advisory Group for the Development of evidence based Standard Protocols for Screening of Breast, Cervical and Oral Cancers in India, has publications in National and International Journals to her credit.