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* Unaware of the HPV vaccine

Los Angeles, CALIFORNIA - While Reina Martinez practiced regularly the Pap test for six years, his mother Minerva Matias Cruz 77 years has only been three down in their lives.

According to Victoria Cortesis, an epidemiologist at the Norris Cancer Center, University of Southern California (USC), 85 percent of women who die from cervical cancer have never had a Pap test.

In the past 3 years the percentage of Latino (health insurance, access to health, dental access and vaccines), which became pap smear tests was 86.7% equaling the percentage of black women and below white women recorded 87.1 percent, according to the document Health Indicators for Women in the County of Los Angeles, published in February 2010.

A Minerva Cruz was made their first pap smear when she was 47 years, on the contrary, his daughter, 33 years old, I practiced every two years in his local clinic in West Los Angeles, six years ago when emigrated to the United States.

Reina Martinez family, with her mother Minerva Matthias.

"The last was a year ago, when I went to check my device," said Reina Martinez, who has no health insurance but acknowledged the importance of the study performed to detect cervical cancer.

"I know the test can detect if you have cervical cancer, and one can avoid death," said the Zapotec Indian who said that information about cervical cancer and other sexual issues were acquired in health clinics, and not their parents.

Minerva Cruz for his part acknowledged that he never had a talk with her 12 children on sexual matters, according to the Oaxacan Indian mother was because he had no education.

"I came 12 years to school. I was only a year and learned the syllabary and the book onomatopoeic method, only that I studied and never went to school. "

"My grandmother told me: 'Women Need to Know to grind corn to make porridge and tejate (traditional Oaxacan drink). You do not really going to give her husband a book to eat? " That was why they pulled me out of school. "

Minerva Cruz explained that the lack of continuity to undergo the Pap test was for only 20 years ago in their home Santa Ana del Valle, a Zapotec community in Oaxaca state, was installed a community health clinic.

"There were no doctors in town. My 12 children were born in my house until I started to get sick went to the doctor in Tlacolula (county seat located about 5 km from Santa Ana del Valle), "said Oaxaca, who recently arrived from their home to visit their children who immigrated a few years ago the United States.

Mothers know little of the new HPV vaccine

But while Reina Martinez never had the information from her mother about sexual issues, indigenous Oaxacan Zapotec said it wants to repeat the same pattern as her mother and expressed concern that her older daughters Nadia, 15, and Talia, 14, are informed.

Did the vaccine to prevent cervical cancer in their daughters?

"I do not know, but better inform me, maybe I would let you apply them," said Reina.

For their part, young Nadia and Talia said he knew nothing of the vaccine (HPV), and were shy to speak on the subject.

The new HPV vaccine, called Gardasil, is a tool against cervical cancer, says a project document HPV Cervical Cancer Foundation of the California Medical Association (CMAF).

The vaccine to prevent cervical cancer and vaginal cancer and associated precancerous lesions caused by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) was approved by the authorities of the United States since 2006.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (CDC) recommends three doses of vaccine in women 11 to 12 years of age and 13 to 26 years of age who have not previously received the vaccine.

It also recommends the vaccine, regardless of previous history of HPV infection or the result of normal Pap test.

For its part, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG for its acronym in English) said that the vaccine protects against four strains of HPV that cause most cervical cancers and genital warts, and explains that it is more efficient when administered before the onset of sexual activity.

"I think we need to inform parents of this vaccine and how to prevent cervical cancer," said Reina Martinez.

So does Susan Palma, Oaxacan Zapotec community of Diaz Ordaz, Tlacolula, who lives in Santa Monica area, California, to the west of the county of Los Angeles.

Palma has 4 children, of whom 2 are women, Cecilia, 24, single and special education teacher, and Liliana 20-year-old student of political science at the University of Santa Clara, California.

Susana Palma and her daughters Cecilia and Liliana.

Cecilia received the vaccine at age 18, and his sister Liliana immediately. "I went with my dad to the hospital and we said that we do implement it," said Cecilia before the incredulous eyes of her mother, who until then that she learned that her eldest daughter had taken the vaccine against cervical cancer.

"I knew there was a vaccine. I was surprised, "said Cecilia's mother's red face who agreed to not talk about sexual issues with their daughters off.

For its part Cecilia said that unfortunately the Oaxacan Mexican culture and parents do not talk about these topics with their children.

"Here you see that we (the daughters) talk to her (mother), and we show that it is something human, which need not be ashamed," said Cecilia after indicating that she recommended to her younger sister who applied the vaccine.

What was the reason I made the decision to apply yourself the vaccine?

"Because sexuality class my teacher told us about cervical cancer and how to take steps to prevent it, even if one was not sexually active. But many (young) do not take it because parents are afraid, that fear is also that many girls have children at an early age. "

"It is a 'stigma' that parents have and do not let their daughters be vaccinated because they see it as something bad for the girls. Fear that their daughters are having sex, "said Cecilia, who added" I think it is lack of knowledge of parents who are not informed about things. "

LATIN: MORE AFFECTED BY CERVICAL CANCER

The American Cancer Society estimated in 2010 about 12.200 thousand new cases of invasive cervical cancer in the United States. Of them are around 4, 210 deaths from this cause.

In the county of Los Angeles, women are diagnosed with cervical cancer at rates higher than the national average, the most affected by poor Latino women with an incidence rate between 1996-2000 of 18.3 per 100,000 in compared with 8.1 per every 100.00 among white women and 8.7 per 100,000 among women in the U.S.

If you are a person with low incomes and no health insurance, call to make an appointment for a Pap test at: 1-800-793-8090 or visit the website of the Office of Women's Health (department Public Health County of Los Angeles) http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/owh/index.htm

For more information on the topic visit: www.cancer.gov / Spanish or for questions about cancer call 1-800-422-6237 (1-800-4-CANCER) Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 8 : 00 pm EST in the U.S..

REFERENCES FOR SMEAR TEST A LOW COST OR NO COST.

Planned Parenthood Los Angeles 888-633-0433

http://www.plannedparenthood.org/los-angeles/

Planned Parenthood Los Angeles provides convenient and affordable access to a full range of quality services in reproductive health sexual health information, education and advocacy for the patient.

Programs of federal and state funding for the detection

FamilyPACT 800-942-1054

http://www.familypact.org

Cancer Detection Programs: Every Woman Counts 800-511-2300

http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CancerDetection

Medicare 800-MEDICARE

http://www.medicare.gov

Federal and state programs for the treatment

Treatment programs for breast cancer and cervical 800-824-0088

http://www.cdph.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/BCCTP.aspx

Treatment Program for breast and cervical cancer (BCCTP) immediately full-service Medi-Cal or limited duration of cancer-related Medi-Cal for California residents are uninsured or underinsured who have been screened and diagnosed with breast cancer or cervical cancer. An applicant can register via the Internet by providers that offer services under the FamilyPACT and / or Cancer Detection Programs: Every Woman Counts.

Programs of federal and state funding for HPV vaccines

Programs of HPV vaccines for children

www.eziz.org / pages / VFCoverview.html

This federal program provides vaccines, including HPV vaccines at no cost to eligible children. To be eligible, children must be 18 years or less and be eligible for Medi-Cal or Child Health and Disability Program (CHDP, for its acronym in English), uninsured and / or Indians Native American or Alaska. Children whose insurance does not cover vaccines can qualify for free vaccine within the federal government Qualified Health Centers or Rural Clinics. Private physicians' offices, community clinics and public clinics in the County of Los Angeles to participate in this program. Find a list of participating providers: www.eziz.org/pages/vfc_locations2.html .

Providers that offer low-cost and no cost vaccines 2-1-1

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov / ip / IZclinics / clinics_cities.pdf

Several community or public clinics in Los Angeles provide vaccines, including vaccines against HPV, low-cost or no cost to eligible patients who do not have a regular doctor and / or insurance coverage of vaccines. Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Visit the website listed above or check the County of Los Angeles to the information line at 2-1-1 for a list of clinics. Families should call ahead to confirm eligibility, clinic hours, and that vaccines are available.

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