# Prevalence, concordance and determinants of human papillomavirus infection among heterosexual partners in a rural region in central Mexico 

Rocio Parada ${ }^{1}$, Rosalba Morales², Anna R Giuliano ${ }^{3}$, Aurelio Cruz ${ }^{1}$, Xavier Castellsague ${ }^{4}$, Eduardo Lazcano-Ponce ${ }^{1 *}$

Following the publication of this paper [1] we received some important observations on the statistical proof used and the way the results were presented in the tables and figure. We have taken them into account and are responding to the same.

For the comparison of the prevalence of HPV infection in men and women, we used the MacNemar test. This test is used to prove a hypothesis of equality of proportions in non-independent groups. In this case the groups of men and women are not independent because they are sexual partners. Table 1 shows that the prevalence of HPV is greater in men than in women (20.4\% vs $13.7 \%$, p value $=0.0009$ ). There were no statistically significant differences between type specific infection in men and women; only in types HPV31, HPV53, HPV55, HPV61 and HPV84 (Table 1 and Figure 1).

The analysis of known risk factors for HPV infection was carried out separately for men and women. Nonconditional logistic regression was performed. When stratifying by sex we do not need to consider the condition of sexual partners. This part of the analysis was performed in this way, as it allows us to include explanatory variables in men - variables that cannot be defined in women, such as circumcision, use of condoms, and some specific characteristics on sexual risk behaviors. In women it allows us to consider, in addition to characteristics of their own sexual behaviors, characteristics of their male partner's sexual behavior circumcision, use of condoms, etc. (Table 2). The last section of the study focuses on assessing the risk of HPV infection in women, considering the presence of

[^0]Table 1 Prevalence of HPV DNA in $\mathbf{5 0 4}$ heterosexual couples in central Mexico, according to sex

| HPV | $\begin{gathered} \text { Men } \\ \mathrm{n}=504 \end{gathered}$ |  | Women$\mathrm{n}=504$ |  | OR* | Cl 95\%* | $\mathrm{p}^{*}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | n | \% | n | \% |  |  |  |
| Presence of HPV |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Positive | 103 | 20.4 | 69 | 13.7 | 0.51 | (0.33-0.77) | 0.0009 |
| Presence of high-risk HPV |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Positive | 44 | 8.7 | 48 | 9.5 | 1.14 | (0.67-2.00) | 0.6056 |
| Presence of low-risk HPV |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Positive | 75 | 14.9 | 33 | 6.5 | 0.27 | (0.15-0.49) | 0.0000 |
| Multiple HPV infection |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| One type only | 79 | 15.7 | 50 | 9.9 |  |  |  |
| Two or more types | 24 | 4.8 | 19 | 3.8 | 0.74 | (0.34-1.55) | 0.3841 |
| Presence of HPV 16 and/or 18 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Negative | 491 | 97.4 | 490 | 97.2 |  |  |  |
| Positive | 13 | 2.6 | 14 | 2.8 | 1.09 | (0.44-2.72) | 0.8348 |

## Positive for

| High-risk HPV |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 16 | 6 | 1.2 | 10 | 2 | 1.80 | $(0.54-6.83)$ | 0.2850 |
| 18 | 7 | 1.4 | 4 | 0.8 | 0.50 | $(0.08-2.34)$ | 0.3173 |
| 31 | 1 | 0.2 | 5 | 1 |  |  | 0.0455 |
| 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 39 | 7 | 1.4 | 3 | 0.6 | 0.20 | $(0.01-1.78)$ | 0.1025 |
| 45 | 2 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.2 | 0.50 | $(0.01-9.60)$ | 0.5637 |
| 51 | 2 | 0.4 | 3 | 0.6 | 1.50 | $(0.17-17.96)$ | 0.6547 |
| 52 | 3 | 0.6 | 5 | 1 | 2.00 | $(0.29-22.10)$ | 0.4142 |
| 56 | 2 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.2 | 0.00 | $(0.00-39.00)$ | 0.3173 |
| 58 | 3 | 0.6 | 5 | 1 | 2.00 | $(0.29-22.10)$ | 0.4142 |
| 59 | 12 | 2.4 | 15 | 3 | 1.37 | $(0.50-3.93)$ | 0.4913 |
| 66 | 6 | 1.2 | 3 | 0.6 | 0.40 | $(0.04-2.44)$ | 0.2568 |

Table 1 Prevalence of HPV DNA in 504 heterosexual couples in central Mexico, according to sex (Continued)

| For low-risk HPV |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 2 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.4 | 1.00 | $(0.01-78.40)$ | 1.0000 |
| 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 40 | 2 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.4 | 1.00 | $(0.07-13.70)$ | 1.0000 |
| 42 | 2 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.4 | 1.00 | $(0.07-13.70)$ | 1.0000 |
| 53 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 0.4 | 0.11 | $(0.01-0.80)$ | 0.0114 |
| 54 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0.8 | 0.66 | $(0.05-5.81)$ | 0.6547 |
| 55 | 4 | 0.8 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | $(0.00-1.51)$ | 0.0450 |
| 61 | 14 | 2.8 | 2 | 0.4 | 0.07 | $(0.01-0.51)$ | 0.0013 |
| 62 | 11 | 2.2 | 7 | 1.4 | 0.43 | $(0.07-1.87)$ | 0.2059 |
| 64 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 67 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 68 | 2 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.2 | 0.50 | $(0.01-9.60)$ | 0.5637 |
| 69 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.2 |  |  | 0.3173 |
| 70 | 1 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | $(0.00-39.00)$ | 0.3171 |
| 71 | 3 | 0.6 | 5 | 1 | 2.00 | $(0.29-22.10)$ | 0.4142 |
| 72 | 4 | 0.8 | 1 | 0.2 | 0.25 | $(0.01-2.52)$ | 0.1797 |
| 73 | 2 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.4 | 1.00 | $(0.07-13.79)$ | 1.0000 |
| 81 | 7 | 1.4 | 4 | 0.8 | 0.50 | $(0.08-2.34)$ | 0.3173 |
| 82 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 83 | 1 | 0.2 | 2 | 0.4 | 2.00 | $(0.10-$ | 0.5637 |
| 84 | 9 | 1.8 | 1 | 0.2 | 0.00 | $(0.00-0.58)$ | 0.0047 |
| 1839 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 96108 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 0.6 | 0.50 | $(0.05-3.48)$ | 0.4142 |
| 08, |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

HPV infection in their sex partners as an explanatory variable. Thus we find that women whose sexual partners are HPV positive have 5.15 times greater risk of HPV, compared to those whose partners are HPV negative (CI 95\% 3.01, 8.82). Indeed, what matters to us in this part is proving that the variable "presence of HPV in male partner" be associated with the presence of HPV in the female. We do not seek to compare the risk of HPV infection between men and women (Table 3).
We are thankful for your observations and deeply regret the confusion in the results presented.

## Author details

${ }^{1}$ Centro de Investigación en Salud Poblacional, Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública, Cuernavaca, Morelos, México. ${ }^{2}$ Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, Morelos, México. ${ }^{3} \mathrm{H}$. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Tampa, Florida. ${ }^{4}$ Cancer Epidemiology Research Program, Institut Català d'Oncologia (ICO), IDIBELL, CIBER-ESP, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain.

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1. Parada R, Morales R, Giuliano AR, Cruz A, Castellsagué X, Lazcano-Ponce E: Prevalence, concordance and determinants of human papillomavirus infection among heterosexual partners in a rural region in central Mexico. BMC Infect Dis 2010, 10:223.

## Pre-publication history

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* OR, Cl95\% and p-value obtained using McNemar's Test.

* HPV types $33,35,11,26,64,67,82$ and IS39 were not found in men or their sex partners.
** Black bars correspond to high oncogenic risk HPV genotypes. White bars correspond to HPV types considered low oncogenic risk.
Figure 1 Type specific prevalence of HPV infection in a group of heterosexual couples in central Mexico, according to sex

Table 2 Sociodemographic and sexual conduct characteristics associated with the presence of HPV DNA among 504 heterosexual couples in central Mexico, according to sex

| Variable | $\begin{gathered} \text { Men } \\ \mathrm{n}=504^{\mathrm{a}} \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  | Women$\mathrm{n}=504^{\mathrm{a}}$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { HPV + } \\ n=103 \end{gathered}$ | Risk of HPV infection |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { HPV + } \\ & \mathrm{n}=69 \end{aligned}$ |  | Risk of HPV infection |  |
|  | n (\%) | HPV + (\%) | OR ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | CI 95\% | n (\%) | HPV + (\%) | OR ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | CI 95\% |
| Age ${ }^{\text {c }}$ (years) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18-24 | 40(8.0) | 9(22.5) | 1.00 |  | 64(12.7) | 13(20.3) | 1.00 |  |
| 25-30 | 91(18.0) | 17(18.7) | 0.77 | (0.31-1.93) | 98(19.4) | 15(15.3) | 0.70 | (0.30-1.60) |
| 31-40 | 191(37.9) | 29(15.2) | 0.61 | (0.26-1.42) | 209(41.5) | 24(11.5) | 0.47 | (0.22-1.00) |
| 41-75 | 182(36.1) | 48(26.4) | 1.23 | (0.54-2.80) | 133(26.4) | 17(12.8) | 0.55 | (0.24-1.23) |
| p-trend |  |  |  | 0.1999 |  |  |  | 0.1305 |
| Place of residence |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rural | 350(69.4) | 62(17.7) | 1.00 |  | 350(69.4) | 47(13.4) | 1.00 |  |
| Urban | 154(30.6) | 41 (26.6) | 1.71 | (1.08-2.71) | 154(30.6) | 22(14.3) | 1.02 | (0.58-1.79) |
| Marital Status |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Married | 400(79.4) | 72(18.0) | 1.00 |  | 400(79.4) | 43(10.7) | 1.00 |  |
| Single | 104(20.6) | 31 (29.8) | 1.92 | (1.14-3.25) | 104(20.6) | 26(25.0) | 2.79 | (1.56-5.00) |
| Schooling ${ }^{\text {d }}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| < $=6$ years | 174(34.5) | 47(27.0) | 1.85 | (0.99-3.44) | 77(15.5) | 8(10.4) | 0.70 | (0.28-1.76) |
| 7-9 years | 199(39.5) | 37(18.6) | 1.28 |  | 286(57.6) | 43(15.0) | 1.17 | (0.62-2.19) |
| $>=10$ years | 131(26.0) | 19(14.5) | 1.00 | (0.70-2.36) | 134(26.9) | 17(12.7) | 1.00 |  |
| p-trend |  |  |  | 0.0061 |  |  |  | 0.8069 |
| Religion |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Catholic | 430(85.3) | 81(18.8) | 1.00 |  | 430(85.3) | 58(13.5) | 1.00 |  |
| Other | 74(14.7) | 22(29.7) | 1.88 | (1.07-3.31) | 74(14.7) | 11(14.9) | 1.04 | (0.51-2.11) |
| Current smoker |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| No | 278(55.2) | 56(20.1) | 1.00 |  | 435(86.3) | 53(12.2) | 1.00 |  |
| Yes | 226(44.8) | 47(20.8) | 1.08 | (0.69-1.69) | 69(13.7) | 16(23.2) | 1.97 | (1.03-3.75) |
| Age on initiating sexual life |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\leq 18$ years | 284(56.3) | 68(23.9) | 1.59 | (1.00-2.52) | 269(53.4) | 39(14.5) | 1.06 | (0.62-1.81) |
| $\geq 19$ years | 220(43.7) | 35(15.9) | 1.00 |  | 235(46.6) | 30(12.8) | 1.00 |  |
| No. of lifetime sexual partners |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| One | 185(36.7) | 30(16.2) | 1.00 |  | 371(73.6) | 45(12.1) | 1.00 |  |
| Two | 76(15.1) | 17(22.4) |  | (0.75-2.92) | 88(17.5) | 15(17.1) |  | (0.78-2.85) |
| Three to nine | 171(33.9) | 31 (18.1) | 1.49 | (0.62-1.90) | 45(8.9) | 9(20.0) | 1.50 | (0.75-3.79) |
| Ten or more | 72(14.3) | 25(34.7) | 1.08 | (1.34-4.82) | - | - | 1.69 | - |
|  |  |  | 2.54 |  |  |  | - |  |
| P-trend |  |  |  | 0.0142 |  |  |  | 0.0796 |
| History of anal sexual relations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| No | 305(63.1) | 64(20.9) | 1.00 |  | 146(67.0) | 25(17.1) | 1.00 |  |
| Yes | 178(36.9) | 34(19.1) | 0.90 | (0.56-1.45) | 72(33.0) | 8(11.1) | 0.65 | (0.26-1.60) |
| Circumcision ${ }^{\text {e }}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| No | 469(93.0) | 98(20.9) | 1.00 |  | 469(93.0) | 61(13.0) | 1.00 |  |
| Yes | 35(7.0) | 5(14.3) | 0.61 | (0.22-1.64) | 35(7.0) | 8(22.9) | 1.92 | (0.82-4.51) |
| History of sexual relations with prostitutes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| No | 395(78.4) | 72(18.2) | 1.00 |  | - | - | - |  |
| Yes | 109(21.6) | 31 (28.4) | 1.68 | (1.01-2.78) | - | - | - | - |
| Use of condom when having sexual relations with prostitutes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Have not had sexual relations with prostitutes | 395(78.4) | 72(18.2) | 1.00 |  | - | - | - |  |
| Always | 34(6.7) | 8(23.5) | 1.46 | (0.63-3.41) | - | - | - | - |

Table 2 Sociodemographic and sexual conduct characteristics associated with the presence of HPV DNA among 504 heterosexual couples in central Mexico, according to sex (Continued)

| Not always | $75(14.9)$ | $23(30.7)$ | 1.78 | $(1.00-3.17)$ | - | - |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -trend |  |  | 0.0128 | - |  |  |

${ }^{a}$ Due to missing data, all categories do not total 504.
${ }^{\text {b }}$ Odds ratio and $95 \%$ confidence intervals obtained using logistic regression models adjusted for age and SLI.
${ }^{\text {}}$ Models adjusted for SLI only to avoid colinearity.
${ }^{\mathrm{d}}$ Models adjusted for age only to avoid colinearity when adjusting for SLI.
${ }^{\mathrm{e}}$ This variable as was asked of men only. Women were assigned the value corresponding to the antecedent of circumcision in their male sexual partner.

Table 3 Risk of HPV infection associated with the status of HPV infection in the sexual partner

| Variable | Risk of HPV infection in women |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Presence of HPV <br> in men | $\mathrm{n}=504$HPV <br> positives | OR $^{\mathrm{a}}$ | CI 95\% ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |
|  |  | $n=69 \%$ |  |  |

Presence of HPV

| Negative | $401 / 79.6$ | $8.7(35)$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Positive | $103 / 20.4$ | $33.0(34)$ | 5.15 | 0.000 | $3.01-8.82$ |

Presence of oncogenic HPV

| Negative | 460 | $6.9(32)$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Positive | 44 | $36.4(16)$ | 7.64 | 0.000 | $3.75-15.56$ |
| Presence of <br> nononcogenic HPV |  |  |  |  |  |
| Negative | 429 | $3.7(16)$ |  |  |  |
| Positive | 75 | $22.7(17)$ | 7.56 | 0.000 | $3.62-15.79$ |
| Presence of HPV |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 and/or 18 | 491 | $2.4(12)$ |  |  |  |
| Negative | 13 | $15.4(2)$ | 7.25 | 0.016 | $1.44-36.37$ |
| Positive |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Odds ratio, p -value, and $\mathrm{Cl} 95 \%$ obtained using logistic regression.

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[^0]:    * Correspondence: elazcano@insp.mx
    ${ }^{1}$ Centro de Investigación en Salud Poblacional, Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública, Cuernavaca, Morelos, México
    full list of author information is available at the end of the article

