

# Natural history of cervical neoplasia

#### R. Sankaranarayanan MD

International Agency for Research on Cancer Lyon, France

Special Adviser in Cancer Control Head, Early Detection and Prevention Section (EDP) Head, Screening Group (SCR)

http://screening.iarc.fr/

## **Cervical Cancer**

- A rare long-term outcome of a very common viral infection of the surface epithelium
- Well understood natural history
- Eminently preventable and treatable cancer
- Incidence/mortality heavily influenced by socio-economic development, screening and prevention efforts
- Both optimistic and pessimistic scenarios!
- Very little advocacy for its control in the third world!
- Major support given by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to augment prevention efforts in the third world



### Natural history of cancer





## CERVICAL CANCER IS A RARE LONG-TERM OUTCOME OF PERSISTENT INFECTION WITH ONE OR MORE OF HIGH-RISK HPV TYPES

(16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, 68, 73, 82)



## HPV 16, 18 and 45 DNA positivity, by cervical disease grade



International Agency for Research on Cancer



## HPV 33, 58, 31, 52 and 35 DNA positivity, by cervical disease grade





## HPV 39, 59, 51, 56 and 68 DNA positivity, by cervical disease grade





Cumulative incidence of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia grade 3 and cancer (≥CIN3) over a 10-year period in 20514 women according to oncogenic human papillomavirus (HPV) status at enrolment





### Natural history of HPV infection



#### Median duration of new infection 8 months



### Natural history of cervical cancer



# Natural history of cervical cancer precursor lesions

Pap smear classes	WHO system	CIN system	Bethesda system
Class I	Normal	Normal	Normal
Class II			
Class III	Mild dysplasia	CIN 1	LSIL
Class III	Moderate dysplasia	CIN 2	HSIL
Class III	Severe dysplasia	CIN 3	HSIL
Class IV	Ca in-situ	CIN 3	HSIL



## Adenocarcinoma – *in-situ*



## Natural history of cervical cancer precursor lesions





International Agency for Research



# Natural history of cervical cancer precursor lesions

- Cross-sectional studies
- Cohort (follow-up studies
- Screening programmes

#### **Problems:**

- Small sample sizes
- Varying periods-often short- follow-up periods
- Varying degrees of lost to follow-up
- Inconsistent methods of assessing diagnosis
- Inconsistent assessment of diagnostic categories
- Variations in end points
- Effect of treatment/biopsy



### Natural history of dysplasia

Attribute	Mild	Moderate	CIS
No. studies	17	12	21
No. pts	4,505	2,247	767
Regress	57%	43%	32%
Persist	32%	35%	56%
Progress to CIN 3	11%	22%	-
Progress to invasive cancer	1%	5%	12%

Oster A.G. IJGP 1993;12:186-192



### Toronto natural history study

- Linkage of a single laboratory with Ontario Cancer Registry
  - 17,619 women during 1970 to 1980 included
  - 12, 058 (68.4%) mild dysplasia
  - 4834 ((27.4%) moderate dysplasia
- 724 (4.2%) severe dysplasia
- Average length of follow-up 159,142, 86 months
- Conservative management of dysplasias during this time

Holowaty et al., JNCI 1999;91:251-258





# Toronto natural history study: % of progression

Dysplastic states	2 years	5 years	10 years
Mild to moderate or worse	11.1	20.4	28.8
Mild to severe or worse	2.1	5.5	9.9
Moderate to severe or worse	16.3	25.1	32.0
Severe to cancer	12.1	16.8	20.7

Holowaty et al., JNCI 1999;91:251-258



### Factors influencing progression of CIN

- HPV infection
- Aneuploidy
- Cytological abnormality
- Immune stains
- ? Age
- ? Large lesions
- ? Dense acetowhite lesions



Natural history of dysplasia

Summary of studies:

- > 80% of CIN 1,2 regress by 10 yrs
- about 10% of CIN 1 progress to CIN 3
- about 20% of CIN 2 progress to CIN 3
- < 5% of CIN 1 progress to invasive cancer
- < 10% of CIN 2 progress to invasive cancer
- about 50% of CIN 3 progress to invasive cancer
- progression is a slow process



#### HIGH-GRADE CIN (CIN 2,3) Considered to be "true" neoplasia or precursor



Internation



Cumulative cervical cancer incidence among women with histologically proven CIN who defaulted treatment, 2000-2009, Osmanabad District, India

	No. of women	Person years of follow up (PYO)	No. of cervical cancer cases (%)	Cervical cancer incidence rate (per 100,000 PYO)
CIN 1	1,542	15,091	6 (0.4)	39.8
CIN 2	37	347	1 (2.7)	288.4
CIN 3	39	357	5 (12.8)	1400.4



Cumulative cervical cancer incidence among women with histologically proven CIN who received treatment, 2000-2009, Osmanabad District, India

	No. of women	Person years of follow up (PYO)	No. of cervical cancer cases (%)	Cervical cancer incidence rate (per 100,000 PYO)
CIN 1	966	9,392	4 (0.4)	42.6
CIN 2	257	2,464	11 (4.2)	446.4
CIN 3	369	3,542	12 (3.3)	338.8



#### Natural History of Cervical Cancer Precursors IMPLICATIONS FOR TREATMENT AND FOLLOW-UP

- Most HPV infection (>90%) are transitory in nature No Rx required (No Rx exists!)
- Most CIN 1 regress If systematic follow-up can't be ensured TREAT!
- CIN 2/3 are true precursors of cervical cancer SHOULD treat them
- The risk of invasive cancer is still high in treated women with CIN

