

HPV vaccination – the Danish experience

Danish researchers actively participated in the large RCTs that led to the approval of the HPV-vaccines more than ten years ago. Denmark was also an early adopter of universal coverage of HPV-vaccine, having introduced in the the childhood immunization programme for 12-year old girls from 2008, rapidly achieving a high coverage. The real-world efficacy of the vaccine has been demonstrated by a drastic decrease in premalignant cervical pathology in vaccinated cohorts of Danish girls. In 2014 and 2015 Denmark saw a suprising, sudden and massive erosion of confidence in the safety in the HPV-vaccine, in large part due to media exposure of unsubstantiated concerns and insufficient response from authorities and professionals. Following a concerted campaign led by the Danish Health Authority, the confidence has substantially recovered, with increasing numbers of Danish girls in age group 12-18 years being immunized.