

# Global strategy towards the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem

**Povzetek prispevka:** Vitaly Smelov (IARC-WHO). *Draft of the Global Strategy towards the Elimination of Cervical Cancer as a public health problem.*

## Summary

This draft global strategy calls for a comprehensive, population-based approach to put all countries on the path to the elimination of cervical cancer within the century. It covers the period 2020-2030. The strategy proposes an approach that will enable countries to reach 2030 global targets for key interventions that, in turn, will lead to elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem (hereafter referred to as “elimination”). The proposed targets for 2030 are:

- **90%** of girls fully vaccinated with the human papilloma virus (“HPV”) vaccine by 15 years of age;
- **70%** of women are screened with a high-precision test at 35 and 45 years of age; and
- **90%** of women identified with cervical disease receive treatment and care.

The distribution of cervical cancer incidence and mortality reflects global disparities in access to health services.

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women around the world, with 570,000 new cases and 311,000 deaths in 2018; yet nearly 90% of those deaths were in low- and middle-income countries. Neither inaction nor inadequate efforts are an option. Without bolder action, disparities in health outcomes will also continue to worsen between and within countries.

Vaccination against HPV infection, screening and treatment of precancer, early detection and prompt treatment of invasive cancers, and palliative care are all proven, cost-effective strategies. Together they address cervical cancer across the care continuum.

WHO established that cervical cancer should **no longer be considered a public health problem when the age-adjusted incidence rate is less than 4 per 100,000 women-years**. While the incidence cannot be reduced to zero with the current interventions, the elimination threshold is achievable within the 21st century in every country.

Although HPV vaccination is vital, models demonstrate that vaccination alone is insufficient. To achieve elimination in the shortest period of time and with maximum impact, intensive vaccination, screening, and treatment must be pursued in combination.

Commitment to these 2030 targets is required to achieve elimination within the century:

- **90%** of girls fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by 15 years of age;
- **70%** of women are screened with a high-precision test at 35 and 45 years of age; and
- **90%** of women identified with cervical disease receive treatment and care.

To reach the 2030 targets, focused action across the continuum of care is required, including:

Increased coverage of HPV vaccination;  
Increased coverage of screening and treatment of precancer lesions; and  
Increased diagnosis and treatment of invasive cancer, as well as palliative care.

Monitoring and surveillance will allow the world to track and improve processes. WHO will provide a framework to monitor implementation and to validate elimination.

Innovations and research are required to reach elimination faster and more efficiently. WHO will work with partners to expedite research outcomes and to facilitate access to the resulting innovations.

Sustainable financing of cervical cancer programmes is necessary to achieve elimination. WHO will work with Member States and partners to make the case for investing in cervical cancer elimination and to jointly mobilize resources.

<sup>1</sup> A WHO recommended high-precision test which would have performance characteristics similar to or better than a HPV test. In the future, however, new technologies may be available.

Povezavi:

1. <https://www.who.int/cancer/cervical-cancer/cervical-cancer-elimination-strategy>
2. <https://www.who.int/cancer/cervical-cancer/health-professionals>