ABSTRACT

Human papillomavirus (HPV) has become widely known as the causative agent of cervical cancer and some oropharyngeal cancers. The development of HPV vaccines has further piqued public interest. As a result, dentists will have increasing numbers of patients who will inquire about oral HPV infection and its prevention by means of vaccination. Dental professionals must be informed. This review provides an overview of HPV, its association with HIV and oropharyngeal cancer, and information on HPV vaccinations.

ABSTRACT

The goal of this study was to begin to assess the prevalence of oropharyngeal cancer among all oral cancers and thus the potential role of human papillomavirus (HPV) in this disease in the south Texas Region served by the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), and University Health System (UHS) in San Antonio, Texas. This health system represents the largest catchment area for oral cancer serving the south Texas populations, extending from the U.S.-Mexico border, north to Williamson County, west to Eagle Pass, and east to Gonzales County. With the move towards electronic medical records (EMR) nationwide, our team conducted a feasibility study to answer this question utilizing electronic record coding data across both local networks.

KEY WORDS

Oral cancer, oropharyngeal cancer, human papilloma virus (HPV)