

WP-4 CERVICAL SCREENING STUDY PROTOCOL FOR POLAND

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EVALUATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND HEALTH-BEHAVIOR OF POLISH WOMEN AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

BACKGROUND

Poland is still a high risk cervical cancer country, however, a very slow improvement can be seen in the last ten years. A steady increase of women's awareness concerning cervical cancer prevention and participation in opportunistic screening could have influenced this trend.

The previous studies performed on a representative sample of Polish women showed a substantial discrepancy in knowledge and health behaviour, which depends on age group, level of education and place of residence. The source and quality of information concerning benefits of early diagnosis were also evaluated. The same questions were asked in the subsequent studies, therefore trends could be observed [1, 2].

The National Cervical Cancer Screening Program in Poland still resulted in unacceptable low attendance of women invited by individual letters (less than 25% after 3 years of Program) [3]. Regional differences in the country were also visible.

That might suggest the following:

- Inadequate promotion of screening in Poland, which resulted in insufficient knowledge and low attendance in screening,
- Opportunistic screening, carried out in the private sector (which is not under control) may compete with the above organized on the national level.

THE AIM OF THE STUDY

1. To evaluate trends of knowledge and health-behaviour of Polish women after three years of the national screening program activity,
2. To recognize causes and opinions concerning incapability of national screening program.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The questionnaire containing two groups of items will be designed:

- Items corresponding with the previous studies,
- Items concerning opinions about national cervical screening accessibility, psychological determinants, level of satisfaction and women preferences

One part of the questionnaire will contain methods used in the previous studies, which will allow for trends' evaluation.

The Public Opinion Research Centre (CBOS) [<http://www.cbos.pl>] will conduct interviews on the personal level in the representative sample of population. This approach will assure the high quality of research.

EXPECTED RESULTS

There is an urgent need to modify the cervical screening program in Poland to make it more efficient. It is expected that the results of the study will bring evidence that special effort should be addressed to the specific segments of population and perhaps the methodological approach used in promoting the program may be modify.

REFERENCES

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