

ABSTRACT

Cervical Dysplasias Among 15-29 Year Old Women At The Jamaica Cancer Society and The University Hospital Of The West Indies January 1995 - December 1996

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Cervical cancer remains the second most common cancer among Jamaican women resulting in severe morbidity and mortality. This study examined the prevalence of precancerous lesions among young women of 15-29 years old during a two year period, January 1995 to December 1996.

The investigation was carried out at the Jamaica Cancer Society (JCS) and the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI), two of the largest screening sites. It determined the number of patients screened during this period, and those identified with positive results among this group of women. The study also assessed the prevalence of dysplasias among 15-29 year old women who had colposcopic evaluation and noted some of the risk factors associated with the condition.

The main findings of the study showed that the UHWI screens twice as many as the JCS in this age group with a combined positive rate of 5.25%. In both

screening centres, women between 15-19 years old had the highest prevalence of dysplasias (6.3%) and HPV (87%). Women of 15-29 years old account for approximately one-third of all patients who have a colposcopic evaluation.