

# Cervical cancer screening in younger women

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<b>Registration date</b> 12/12/2019	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 24/10/2023	<b>Condition category</b> Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

HPV-based screening for cervical cancer is more effective than cytology-based screening but at younger ages, it entails strongly increased referral to colposcopy and plausibly increased over-diagnosis/treatment and is therefore not recommended below 30 years of age. We hypothesize that at such age using HPV testing as a filter to select the women who do not need screening until age 30 entails lower referral to colposcopy and less over-diagnosis/treatment than cytology-based screening while maintaining protection.

### Who can participate?

Some 20,000 women aged 25 years and coming for screening within the organised screening programmes in Piemonte and Toscana.

### What does the study involve?

Participants will be randomly assigned either to such protocol or to cytology-based screening and compared as for detection of high-grade CIN at baseline and at 30 yrs of age, cumulative CIN detection and cumulative referral to colposcopy from 25 to 30 yrs. Routine screening will automatically provide followup after enrolment.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The study would allow relevant reductions of the undesired effects of screening (over diagnosis and over treatments) and of its costs for the national health service and would strongly simplify the management of organized screening programs.

Given the very low incidence of invasive cancer between 25 and 29 years and the very low risk of invasive cancer observed in HPV negative women within 5.5 years, the recall after 5 years of negative HPV women, as already occurs in older women, does not imply a reduction of protection compared to the cytological screening currently in use.

### Where is the study run from?

The study is being run from SSD Epidemiology and Screening – CPO Piemonte (AOU Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino) and takes place in the Piedmont region.

### When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

November 2018 to December 2020.

Who is funding the study?  
The study is funded by the Italian Ministry of Health.

Who is the main contact?  
Dr. Paola Armaroli  
paola.armaroli@cpo.it

## Contact information

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

**Contact name**  
Dr Paola Armaroli

**ORCID ID**  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8965-4307>

**Contact details**  
Via Cavour 31  
Turin  
Italy  
10123  
+390116333876  
paola.armaroli@cpo.it

## Additional identifiers

**Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)**  
Nil known

**ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)**  
Nil known

**Protocol serial number**  
Nil known

## Study information

**Scientific Title**  
Management of women younger than 30 years in cervical cancer screening: CIN2+ detection rate and referral rate to colposcopy with a screening strategy using HPV testing compared to current practice

**Acronym**  
HPV25

**Study objectives**

The incidence of invasive cervical cancers within 5.5 years after a negative HPV test is much lower than the incidence of invasive cancers within 3.5 years (see preliminary data). Thus, recalling HPV negative women after 5 years is safe. Overdiagnosis with HPV mainly depends on lesions detected by HPV testing but negative for cytology. Therefore, using the HPV test just to select those women aged 25 years who need screening up to age 30 should not cause overdiagnosis. Moreover, this approach should reduce the number of women who are screened by cytology at 25 and 28 years. Thus, we expect that it will reduce the number of colposcopies and could reduce the over-diagnosis compared with the conventional approach.

### **Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

### **Ethics approval(s)**

Approved 19/05/2016, Comitato Etico Interaziendale A.O.U. Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino - A.O. Ordine Mauriziano – ASL TO1 (Corso Bramante 88/90, 10126 Turin; comitatoetico@cittadellasalute.to.it; +39 0116336547), ref: CS/923.

### **Study design**

Randomized controlled trial

### **Primary study design**

Interventional

### **Study type(s)**

Screening

### **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Cervical cancer screening

### **Interventions**

Women aged 25 years who come for the first screening round for cervical cancer after invitation within the organised screening programmes in the Piedmont Region will be eligible. No exclusion is planned. Women will receive an information sheet with the letter of invitation. When they come for screening, they will be asked an informed consent to enter the study. Those who accept will be randomly assigned to the experimental or conventional arm. Randomisation will be centralised and done by a computer.

### **Experimental Arm**

Women will have a sample of cervical cells taken and put in a transport medium for liquid-based cytology (LBC). All women will be tested for HPV by Hybrid Capture 2. Only HC2 positive women will have cytology prepared and interpreted. These women will be managed only on the basis of cytology, like women in the conventional arm. No HPV test repeat for HPV positive, cytology negative women (like at older ages) will be performed. Women with HPV positive test but normal cytology will be invited for a new cytology at age 28 years. On such occasion, they will be referred to colposcopy if cytology is ASC-US or more.

If the analysis conducted after the first year of enrolment will not show a significant reduction of the detection rate of CIN2 or more severe (CIN2+) histology in the experimental vs. conventional arm then HPV negative women will be referred to a new screening round after 5 years.

At the age of 30 years, all women from both arms will be invited to screening with HPV according to Italian recommendations for women aged 30-64 years (i.e. HPV positive but cytology-negative women will be re-invited for new HPV test after 1 year).

#### **Conventional Arm**

Women will be invited for screening at 25 and 28 years of age and managed according to the current cytological protocol, i.e.:

1. A cytological slide will be prepared
2. Women with cytology ASC-US or more severe will be referred for colposcopy.
3. Women with cytology <ASC-US will be invited for a new cytology at 28 years of age. On such occasion, they will be referred to colposcopy if cytology is ASC-US or more severe.

#### **Intervention Type**

Other

#### **Primary outcome(s)**

The reduced disadvantages of the screening strategy are determined using:

1. Cumulative referral to colposcopy in participants aged 25 to 30 years (including screening at 28 if done).
2. Cumulative detection of CIN2+ in participants aged 25 to 30 years.

#### **Key secondary outcome(s)**

The ability of the screening strategy using HPV testing to select only those under the age of 30 years who need screening up to 30 years is determined using the detection rate of histologically determined CIN2+ at baseline.

#### **Completion date**

31/12/2020

## **Eligibility**

#### **Key inclusion criteria**

1. Female
2. Aged 25-28 years
3. Attend the first or second screening round for cervical cancer after invitation within the organised screening programmes in the Piedmont Region

#### **Participant type(s)**

Other

#### **Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

#### **Age group**

Adult

#### **Lower age limit**

25 years

#### **Upper age limit**

28 years

**Sex**

Female

**Total final enrolment**

5623

**Key exclusion criteria**

Second round of screening:

1. Previous positive cytological test or previous histologically confirmed CIN2+.

**Date of first enrolment**

12/11/2018

**Date of final enrolment**

30/11/2019

## **Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

Italy

**Study participating centre**

SSD Epidemiology and Screening – CPO Piemonte

Via Cavour 31

Turin

Italy

10123

## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**

AOU Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/001f7a930>

## **Funder(s)**

**Funder type**

Government

**Funder Name**

Ministero della Salute

**Alternative Name(s)**

Italian Ministry of Health, Italy Ministry of Health, Ministry of Health of Italy, Ministry of Health - Italy, Ministry of Health, Italy

**Funding Body Type**

Government organisation

**Funding Body Subtype**

National government

**Location**

Italy

## Results and Publications

**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**

The data sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date.

**IPD sharing plan summary**

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

**Study outputs**

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Other files</a>	version Interim basic results	24/10/2023	24/10/2023	No	No
<a href="#">Protocol file</a>	English		13/09/2022	No	No
<a href="#">Protocol file</a>	Italian		13/09/2022	No	No