

Cervical Cancer

Introduction

The topic that I chose was cervical cancer. I chose this disease because after my doctor and I talked about Human Papillomavirus (HPV), I was suddenly nervous about cervical cancer. Cervical cancer can be caught by having HPV, and that is a very scary thought. Also, many of the websites talked about having HPV and it leading to cervical cancer. There are two types of HPV that give someone a 70% chance of getting cervical cancer. After doing this project, I understand the cancer a lot more, how it develops, how anyone can get it, and how someone can prevent it.

Section 1: Background and Problem Statement

- **Web site #1:** “Cervical Cancer” (Score: 29)
- **Web address:** en.wikipedia.org/cervical_cancer
- **Information:**
This Web site contained a lot of information about the cancer. It showed many pictures explaining where exactly the cancer is and explaining how it develops. It gave many signs and symptoms, causes, and how doctors may treat it. This Web site would be good for someone learning about cervical cancer because it shows what someone can do if they have it, and it shows what someone can do to prevent ever getting it.
- **Web site #2:** “HPV, Cervical Cancer, and the New Vaccine” (Score: 28)
- **Web address:** www.kaiseredu.org/topics_im.asp?parentID=72&imID=1&id=609
- **Information:**
This Web site included a lot of information on HPV, and the new vaccine, Gardasil. This web site did not contain a lot of information on cervical cancer because this Web site was promoting the new vaccine and giving ways to prevent getting HPV, therefore preventing ways to get cervical cancer. I think that this Web site is good for someone who wants to learn about HPV, but not about cervical cancer.
- **Web site #3:** “Cervical Cancer” (Score: 28)
- **Web address:**
www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_4_1X_What_Is_Cervical_Cancer_8.asp
- **Information:**

This Web site included information on cervical cancer, but in doctor terms. It was not very teenage friendly, and basically only adults could use and understand this particular web site. This Web site only talked about the most common types of cervical cancer. One of the most important facts I learned from this Web site was that most women have pre-cancerous cells in their cervix, but only some women produce cancer from that.

- **Web site #4:** “Testimony on Cervical Cancer” (Score: 23)
- **Web address:** www.hhs.gov/asl/testify/t990316b.html
- **Information:**
This Web site was not very useful to anyone who had cervical cancer and anyone who wanted to learn about the cancer either. This Web site was more opinionated than any other Web site and it did not give much useful information. I would not recommend this site to anyone who wants to learn about the cancer. It was not very helpful. This Web site was also pretty outdated with information, and was using information from the 1990s, which is over ten years ago.

Section 2: Research

- **Web site #1:** “A New Type of Papillomavirus DNA, its presence in genital cancer biopsies and in cell lines derived from cervical cancer.” (Score: 28)
- **Web address:** www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.f.cgi?artid=557488
- **Summary of the research:**
This Web site article was talking about how there could be a new type of Papillomavirus that could be led to cervical cancer. This article was very hard to understand with all of the doctor terms.
- **Web site #2:** “HPV is a cause of Cervical Cancer” (Score: 24)
- **Web address:** www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10451482
- **Summary of the research:**
This Web site was very helpful in learning about HPV and how it leads to cervical cancer. It was good to know how it affects someone’s body and how it leads to cancer. Not all types of HPV lead to cervical cancer and Gardasil does not prevent all types of HPV, either.
- **Web site #3:** “Epidemiologic Classification of Human Papillomavirus Types Associated with Cervical Cancer” (Score: 22)

- **Web address:** content.nejm.org/cgi/content/abstract/348/6/518
- **Summary of the research:** I did not understand this Web site at all. I'm not sure if it's because of the terminology or because of the set up of the site. But, it seems like all of the research Web sites were very hard for me to understand and understand what they were talking about.
- **Web site #4:** "The Papanicolaou test for cervical cancer detection. A triumph and a tragedy." (Score: 24)
- **Web address:** jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/261/5/737
- **Summary of the research:** This Web site was talking about how there is a new test for cervical cancer. This is a great thing to discover, but at the same time, cervical cancer is a very bad thing to have. I understood this site a lot more, but it had nothing to do with cervical cancer and had so much more to do with how to detect it.

Section 3: Statistics

- **Web site #1:** "SEER Stat Fact Sheets" (Score: 30)
- **Web address:** seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/cervix.html
- **Summary of the statistics:** This Web site was very helpful. The most useful statistics listed on this Web site was the one that had to do with the races and their chances of getting cervical cancer. According to these statistics, Hispanics have the highest rate of getting cervical cancer. These statistics were very upsetting, but according to this web site, the survival rate for cervical cancer is very high.
- **Web site #2:** "What Are the Statistics About Cervical Cancer?" (Score: 29)
- **Web address:** www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_4_1X_What_Are_the_Key_Statistics_for_Cervical_Cancer_8.asp
- **Summary of the statistics:** This Web site and its statistics were helpful when learning about cervical cancer. These statistics were about the death rates and the percentage of women, diagnosed with cervical cancer, survival rates. It was helpful to know that the percentage of women who died from cervical cancer has gone down dramatically over the past ten years. I recommend this site to anyone who has cervical cancer and feels as if they are alone.

- **Web site #3: “Human Papillomavirus and Cervical Cancer”**
(Score: 25)
- **Web address:**
www.who.int/hpvcentre/statistics/dynamic/ico/country_pdf/USA.pdf?CFID=1467714&CFTOKEN=30667702
- **Summary of the statistics:** Personally, I did not like this site very much. Instead of having charts to understand the statistics, it was written out in over thirty pages. This was also very hard to understand since the statistics were about women with HPV and cervical cancer, all around the world. If someone is curious about HPV in other countries, this website is helpful, but other than that, there was too much information that was getting boring.
- **Web site #4: “Cervical Cancer Statistics”** (Score: 30)
- **Web address:** www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/statistics
- **Summary of the statistics:** I found this particular Web site to be very helpful when it comes to statistics of cervical cancer. Not only did it give the decreasing rates of cervical cancer, but also it showed how much percent the disease decreased in each race and ethnicity. This Web site showed the trend rates in cervical cancer. Also, this was one of the few Web sites that I found that had to do with just cervical cancer, and not HPV.

Section 4: Consumer Information

- **Web site #1: “Cervical Cancer”** (Score: 22)
- **Web address:** www.cinj.org/rlc/recommended_sites/cervical_cancer.htm
- **Summary of the information:** This Web site would be very helpful for someone who does not know anything about the topic. Although this Web site has no information on it, it has tons of information on other web sites for someone who would want to learn about cervical cancer. After reading through these Web sites, someone who knew nothing about the topic could most definitely get a good understanding of the health problem.
- **Web site #2: “Cancer”** (Score: 23)
- **Web address:** www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/cancer/center/cancerhome.htm
- **Summary of the information:** This Web site was helpful for the topic of cancer altogether, but was not very helpful for specific cancers, such as cervical cancer.

This Web site was helpful for someone learning about cancer, but not about anything else. Someone who went to this Web site not knowing anything about cervical cancer, I do not think they would be able to feel like they learned more from this Web site.

- **Web site #3: “Cervical Cancer Screening”** (Score: 27)
- **Web address:** www.fda.gov/Fdac/features/2--4/104_cancer.html
- **Summary of the information:** This Web site would be very helpful for anyone wanting to learn more about cervical cancer. This Web site has information on what women need to do to prevent cervical cancer, such as pap smears and gynecology appointments. Also, this Web site provides useful information about what the test results mean, when someone eventually gets the results back. Someone who knew the basics about cervical cancer and HPV could use this web site and know a lot more important information. This Web site in conclusion was very helpful.
- **Web site #4: “Pap Tests”** (Score: 27)
- **Web address:** www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/health/paptest_fs/paptest_fs.htm
- **Summary of the information:** When I first viewed this Web site, I thought that it would not be very helpful because it was not filled with as much information as the other Web sites were, but it was just as good. The one thing that I enjoyed about this Web site more than any other one was that the information was provided in Spanish, by just clicking a link. This is very good for Spanish speaking women who would want to know more information. For someone who wanted to learn about this topic, this Web site would be helpful in learning how to prevent it, more than learning about cervical cancer, itself.

Conclusions

- **Section 1: Background and Statement**
 - **The best Web site:** en.wikipedia.org/cervical_cancer
This was the best Web site because it provided useful information that would help me and someone else on learning about cervical cancer. This website showed useful pictures that someone could learn exactly where the cancer starts, and I personally found it the best web site to learn about cervical cancer.
 - **The worst Web site:** www.hhs.gov/asl/testify/t990316b.html
This was the worst Web site that I viewed because it was only a testimony on cervical cancer and I believe it did not provide useful information. Most of the information was very biased and seemed to be very opinionated. This did not provide useful information.

○ **Section 2: Research**

○ **New information I learned include:** While reading through the research websites, I learned that the HPV preventing vaccine, Gardasil, does not prevent all types of HPV and does not prevent all types of cervical cancer. I think that if any woman were to hear this information, they would be very shocked because this is something that my doctor did not tell me. Without researching this project, I would have thought that since I got vaccinated, I was automatically never going to get HPV or cervical cancer.

○ **Section 3: Statistics**

○ **New statistics I learned include:** I personally enjoyed researching the statistics the best. I found out many interesting percentages and I learned a lot more about the death and survival rates of someone who has cervical cancer. One fact that I learned while going through all the statistics was that Hispanics have a higher percentage rate of women who have HPV and cervical cancer. Also, Alaska women's death rates and survival rates, from the disease, did not change in about ten years.

○ **Section 4: Consumer Information**

I enjoyed all of these Web sites that I viewed. I felt as if all of them provided useful information, in their own ways. I believe that if anyone wants to learn about cervical cancer, these four Web sites would be the best four to go to. One of the Web sites provided the information in Spanish, which I thought was extremely helpful. One of them provided tons of links to go to for more information. One of them provided information about how to prevent cervical cancer and one of them provided information on what test results mean.

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