

The screening for early identification of cervical cancer from theory to practice

University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures

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SCIENTIFIC REPORT

“ THE SCREENING FOR EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF CERVICAL CANCER (CCU) FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE”

CNCS-UEFISCDI project: PNII – IDEI / WE-021/2011

Tirgu-Mures
11-12 DECEMBER
2011

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The scientific content of the event

The conference / exploring workshop “ The Screening for early identification of cervical cancer (CCU) from theory to practice”, organized by the University of Medicine and Pharmacy on 11-12 December in Tg. Mures, funded under the National Programme II IDEAS, under the program Exploratory Workshops, by CNCS – Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation, code PN-II-ID-WE-2011-021, started from the necessity of implementing a national health program that would lead to the decrease of morbidity and mortality caused by cervical neoplasm.

In Romania cervical cancer represents 15% of the total number of malign tumors, being on the first place of feminine genital cancers and the second cause of death by cancer in fertile women, as well as at the age span 25-34 and 35-44. These observations outline both its special prevalence and the affected population: women, in their full biologic, social and professional activity.

The aim of the screening for the CCU is the early tracing, in preclinical phase, of the cervical intraepithelial neoplasia, by active intervention (mass testing) of the population with a risk factor. The target group will be thus represented by women with the age between 18-65 which are or were sexually active. A number of risk factors allow the outlining of groups with higher risk (multiple sexual partners, likely carriers of human papillomavirus – HPV, oncogenic strain) at which the measures for tracing must be intensified, or with low risk (for eg. patients with hysterectomy for benign tumors) at which the testing is useless.

Sampling with the aim of screening is done at asymptomatic patients with or without macroscopic lesions of the cervix, the existence of lesions requiring biopsy. The cytological sampling is used (Babes – Papanicolau and Bethesda classifications). The cytological sampling is not expensive, so that every woman should be tested at least once every 1-2 years. Taking into consideration the data regarding the prevalence of cervical cancer in Romania gathered by the Centre for Health Policies and Services, we ask ourselves the normal question: “Is there screening in Romania?”. More and more studies evaluate the percentage of Papanicolau testing in our country, the estimate value at national level being of approximately 7%.

The next question is: “Why is screening not implemented in Romania at a satisfactory level?”. Because of the patients’ reluctance? Or the reluctance of the family physicians? Or the reluctance of the gynecologists? Or because of the Health system? The national screening program remained just at the level of intention because of lack of funds.

The objectives of implementation of the screening in the case of CCU are the following:

- The increase of the level of education in the entire female population, starting in schools
- The increase of the professional level of family physicians as far as the sampling techniques and periodical checkups are concerned

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- The increase in number of anatomopathologists trained to interpret cytological samplings
- The elaboration of laws from which to result the compulsoriness of both responsible medical factors and patients to use screening and periodical checkups.

During the workshop, Prof. Dr. Florin Stamatian, an important personality of the medical world, reviewed the data regarding the frequency, the risk factors, the anatomic pathology, staging, the signs and symptoms, and the treatment of cervical cancer. Among the risk factors of great importance, in his speech, a special attention was given to the vulvovaginal infection with the papilloma virus (HPV).

Associate professor dr Daniel Muresan, from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj Napoca, showed recent data in literature regarding the role of colposcopy in diagnosing preinvasive lesions of the cervix and the importance of cytological sampling in monitoring the patients.

The new markers of progression in the infection with papilloma virus and cervical neoplasia were the object of research during a 10-month scholarship in the USA of Lecturer dr. Ioana Rotar, UMPH Cluj Napoca. From these, the analyses of supplementary prognostic factors such as TSLC1 (tumor suppressor in lung cancer), IL 4 polymorphisms would help detecting long before the emergence of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia.

Together with the increase in number of the cases of HIV infections with young women in Romania, Head of Works Dr. Andrei Sorin brought into discussion the modifications of cervical – vaginal smear at seropositive patients.

The conclusions of the workshop were:

- The elaboration of a common protocol between the two universities of Medicine and Pharmacy from Cluj Napoca and Tg Mures regarding the standardization, classification and treatment of cervical cancer.
- The mobilization of an important number of anatomopathologists who would dedicate themselves to screening the cervical cancer
- The necessity of establishing a screening methodology which would contain and integrate all the key segments: family physicians, anatomopathologists, gynecologists, oncologists.
- The improvement of addressability for screening by informative posters in the physicians' office, schools, family physicians, gynecologists, informative ads published in the media, national radios and television channels.

All the participants filled in participation questionnaires. At the end, the work group, coordinated by the project manager, Dr. Ovidiu Gîrbovan, decided to continue the intercessions and necessary activities for the implementation of the project.

The results will be presented in a paper which will be sent for publication to the Acta Medica Transilvanica, ISSN 1453-1968, B+(CNCSIS) magazine.

The representatives of the media received materials for popularizing the initiative, which was reflected in newspapers, radio and online (<http://www.muresnews.ro/stiri/detalii-stire/inapoi/acasa/articol/umf-tirgu-mures-colaboreaza-cu-umf-cluj-pe-un-program-privind-depistarea-cancerului-de-col-uterin.html> <http://www.tirgumureseanul.ro/detalii-stire/lista/home/articol/umf-a-castigat-un-proiect-de-cercetare-referitor-la-depistarea-cancerului-de-col-uterin.html> http://www.zi-de-zi.ro/detalii-articol/back_to/lista-prima-pagina/article/primii-pasi-spre-screeningul-cancerului-de-col-uterin.html).

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Program

December 11 2011 – Grigorescu Lounge Continental Hotel Tirgu Mures

15.00 – 16.00 Registration of participants working group

16.00 – 20.00 Works working group

20.00 – 22.00 Working desk

December 12 .2011-Tonitza Lounge Continental Hotel Tirgu Mures

8.30 – 9.00 Registration of participants

9.00 – 9.15 Welcome – Dr. Ovidiu Girbovan

9.15 – 10.30 Prof. Dr. Florin Stamatian: Cervical cancer

10.30 – 11.15 Conf. Dr. Daniel Muresan: The Contribution of Colposcopy in Diagnosing Preinvasive Cervical Lesions

11.15 – 11.45 Coffee break

12.00 – 12.45 Lecturer Dr. Ioana Rotaru: Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia – New Perspectives

12. 45 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 14.45 Head of Work Dr. Sorin Andrei: The Incidence of Modifications of Cervical – Vaginal Smears at Seropositive Patients

14.45 – 15.30 Interactive discussions. Filling in the questionnaires by the participants

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 17.00 Conclusions

17.00 – 17.15 Closing of debates

17.15 – 18.00 Press conference

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Information on the organisation of the event

Cervical cancer represents the third cancer as frequency, the fourth cause of death in women, and the usage of cytological screening is the most efficient method of reducing its incidence.

Because of these data, the necessity of starting a screening project appeared with the aim of early tracing the cervical cancer.

The University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg-Mures won a project in the National Plan for Research and Innovation IDEAS Program PN-II-ID-WE-2011-21, financed by the State Budget – The National Council of Scientific Research (NCSR) through the Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI). Project manager, dr. Ovidiu Gîrbovan, together with the coorganizers of the project, Conf. Dr. Dan Miha, UMF Cluj-Napoca, The head of The Prof. Dr. Octavian Fodor Emergency Hospital of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Cluj Napoca and Conf. Dr. Carmen Rădulescu, UMF Tg-Mureş, The head of the Clinic of Obstetrics and Gynecology from the Clinic District Hospital Tg-Mureş suggested the improvement of methods of early tracing cervical cancer. The team for the implementation of the project is made up of famous members of the university medical world: Prof. Dr. Klara Branzaniuc scientific prorektor of UMF Tg-Mureş, Prof. Dr. Szabo Bela The head of the Clinic of Obstetrics and Gynecology I from the Clinic District Emergency Hospital Tg-Mureş, Conf. Univ. Dr. Lucian Puscaşiu UMF Tg-Mureş, Prof. Dr. Angela Borda, head of Histology course at UMF Tg-Mureş, Conf. Dr. Adriana Tomuleţiu from Dimitrie Cantemir University Tg-Mureş, Head of Works Dr. Andrada Loghin, anatomopathologist, UMF Tg-Mureş, Univ. Lecturer Dr. Elena Cristina Gîrbovan, infectious disease physician UMF Tg-Mureş.

During the exploring workshop, in which a number of 72 persons took part, and which was held on the 11-12 December 2011, at the Continental Hotel in Tg Mures, Prof Dr Florin Stamatian from the Iuliu Hatieganu UMF CLuj-Napoca, member of the Romanian Academy of Medical Science, presented the new data regarding cervical cancer, from the point of view of risk factors, clinical data, diagnostic data and therapeutic behaviour. Conf. Dr. Daniel Muresan from the Iuliu Hatieganu UMF CLuj-Napoca underlined the contribution of colposcopy in the diagnostic of preinvasive cervical lesions, Lecturer Dr. Ioana Rotaru from the Iuliu Hatieganu UMF CLuj-Napoca, Obstetrics and Gynecology I, presented the new perspectives in the cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. Head of Works dr. Sorin Andrei from UMF Tg Mures discussed the modifications of cervical – vaginal smears at seropositive patients.

In the end, it was underlined the fact that it is necessary to start screening as soon as possible for early tracing the cervical cancer.

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The tight collaboration between the Tg Mures and Cluj Napoca university centres, which have specialists, modern technology and laboratories for the extension of the scientific research but also the implementation of the screening in their regions.

The working group, made up of 20 persons, will continue its intercessions for the implementation of the pilot project.

At the scientific manifestation participated mainly gynecologists, oncologists but also physicians of other specialties, such as anatomopathologists, surgeons, family physicians, laboratory doctors.

All the participants are implicated in research, being university lecturers and / or PhD candidates.

The results will be sent for publication in the magazine: Acta Medica Transilvanica, a magazine which is registered in the list of Medical Publications accredited by the Romanian Physicians' Council, CNCSIS classified in the B+ category.

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Result

The aim of the workshop was the extension of collaboration between different university centres, developing screening protocols for the early tracing of precancer lesions and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia by the integration of the key segments: family physicians, gynecologists, anatomopathologists, and oncologists. Besides informing, the project aims at research activity regarding the factors that trigger this pathology, treatment, tracing methods in early stages.

The issues presented during the workshop were well appreciated by the participants, by starting discussions and giving arguments to the necessity of starting a National Screening Program for Cervical Cancer, aimed at the decrease of mortality and morbidity rate caused by cervical cancer in women.

The participants appreciated positively the organizing of the event and the ideas presented during it by filling in the satisfaction questionnaires.

The event was appreciated by the media (newspapers, radio, online).

Muresnews : <http://www.muresnews.ro/stiri/detalii-stire/inapoi/acasa/articol/umf-tirgu-mures-colaboreaza-cu-umf-cluj-pe-un-program-privind-depistarea-cancerului-de-col-uterin.html>

Tirgumureseanul : <http://www.tirgumureseanul.ro/detalii-stire/lista/home/articol/umf-a-castigat-un-proiect-de-cercetare-referitor-la-depistarea-cancerului-de-col-uterin.html>

Zi-de-Zi: http://www.zi-de-zi.ro/detalii-articol/back_to/lista-prima-pagina/article/primii-pasi-spre-screeningul-cancerului-de-col-uterin.html

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Rector

Prof. Univ. Dr Copotoiu Constantina



Project Manager

Dr. Ovidiu Gîrbovan