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### “Cervical cancer screening: how we do it, to whom and when”

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**Background and Aim:** Cervical cancer screening has the potential to prevent cancer and its mortality. The liquid-based cytology (LBC) has several advantages and allows testing for human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. Based on this, Portugal has an organized screening model, in which all eligible women are called to an appointment with their family physician in order to do the LBC. These women are asked several questions, data is recorded in a database and all samples are analysed in a reference laboratory. The aim of this study was to characterize a sample of women submitted to this screening.

**Methods:** Women who attended to the appointment between August and October 2015 were submitted to a questionnaire and LBC. Descriptive and inferential analysis was performed to characterize them and evaluate association between variables.

**Results:** 79 women were screened. Their mean age was 41,5 years and 64,6% had family cancer history. The majority were on estroprogestative contraceptives (53,2%), had 1 or more pregnancies (73,4%) and only 10,1% had anti-HPV vaccination. From all, 96,2% had 2 or more previous cytologies, mostly done within the past 3 years. Cervix was visualized in 94,9% women, with macroscopic abnormalities in 44,3% of them. All tests were satisfactory and negative for intraepithelial lesion. However, inflammation was detected in 40,5%, atrophy in 5,1% and parakeratosis in 3,8%. There were no significant differences between family cancer history ( $p=0,306$ ), anti-HPV vaccination ( $p=0,146$ ), number of pregnancies ( $p=0,486$ ), macroscopic abnormalities ( $p=0,053$ ) and an abnormal cytology.

**Conclusions:** This study showed no relation between family history of cancer or gynaecological examination and abnormal LBC. It also showed a high frequency of minor abnormalities which can lead to unnecessary retesting and elevated costs. However, the sample of this study is small to make effective conclusions, so this study is still running in order to achieve more reliable results.