



The Flemish Vaccination Board and the role of HCW in the (HPV) vaccination programme in Flanders

Geert Top MD
Infectious disease control and vaccination

The vaccination programme in Flanders

- ▶ Vaccines for the vaccination programme:
 - Based upon recommendations of the NITAG
 - As **prevention in public health is a subnational responsibility and duty: decision making for implementation at the subnational levels** (Flemish Community, French speaking Community/Walloon Region, Brussels)
 - For Flanders: advice by the Flemish Vaccination Board with **representatives of all groups of vaccinators and academics**
 - Vaccines contracted by **public tenders** including cold chain monitored transport and delivery directly to the consultation place of the vaccinators
 - All vaccinators can order the vaccines online in an ordering system linked to a vaccination registry (Vaccinnet)
 - All vaccines are delivered free of charge

NITAG

Flemish Vaccination Board

Vaccinators



Flemish Vaccination Board

- ▶ Representatives of all professionals involved in vaccination and the vaccination programme (general practitioners, paediatricians, gynaecologists, well-baby clinics, school health services, pharmacists, occupational medicine, academics, ...)
- ▶ Advises about the implementation of the vaccination programme
- ▶ Advises about communication and vaccination campaigns
 - yearly European Immunisation Week
 - yearly flu-vaccination campaign – target groups
- ▶ Prepare common communications about vaccinations
- ▶ In case of crisis: pro-active communication to the vaccinators and minister

Flemish Vaccination Board

- ▶ 2012: public health conference on immunisation, leading to a public health goal on immunisation:
 - prepared during one year with members of the Flemish Vaccination Board
- ▶ Public health goal on immunisation and action plan
 - unanimously approved in Flemish Parliament in 2013
 - => political commitment for the Regional MOH
 - Ministerial Decree to determine the (lifetime) vaccination schedule for Flanders
- ▶ Some examples:
 - Implementation of MenC vaccination campaign
 - Public Health goal on lifetime immunisation
 - Maternal immunisation (in pregnancy) against pertussis
 - Communications about HPV-vaccination

Maternal immunisation against pertussis

- ▶ Recommendation NITAG September 2013: dTap vaccination of all pregnant women during each pregnancy (24-32 weeks)
- ▶ Implementation in Flanders with free of charge vaccines from July 2014 onwards
- ▶ Same message on websites of the Agency for Care and Health, organisations of general practitioners (Domus Medica) and gynaecologists (VVOG) => well accepted (coverage $\pm 70\%$)



“Gust, aged 1 month and already protected against pertussis for 4 months”

Common communication on HPV-vaccination: CRPS and POTS

- ▶ Letter to the vaccinators about safety and efficacy of HPV-vaccination
- ▶ Prepared with the Center for Evaluation of Vaccination (CEV) of Antwerp University and the Agency for Care and Health
- ▶ Commonly signed communication
- ▶ Presented at the yearly Valentine Vaccination Symposium
- ▶ Actualised in October 2017

HPV-vaccines in Belgium

- ▶ From 2007 **onwards** vaccines available in pharmacies in Belgium
 - Quadrivalent vaccine Gardasil® (HPV types 6, 11, 16 en 18)
 - Later: bivalent vaccine Cervarix® (HPV types 16 en 18)
 - Recently (2017): nonavalent vaccine Gardasil 9® (HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58)
- ▶ Partially reimbursed by national health insurance for not yet vaccinated girls aged between 12 and 18 years
 - cost for the patient € 11,90 each vaccine
- ▶ No reimbursement (yet) for boys
- ▶ Some health insurances started with a partial limited reimbursement for boys

HPV-vaccination advice NITAG

- ▶ Advice NITAG (Superior Health Council - SHC) 2007 (nr. 8204):
 - The NITAG recommends yearly general prophylactic vaccination of one birth cohort of girls aged between 10 and 13 years with 3 doses of a HPV-vaccine (in order to prevent cervical cancer)
 - No systematic catch-up vaccination for older girls
 - No vaccination of boys

- ▶ Advice NITAG July 2017 (nr. 9181, publication September 2017)
 - The NITAG recommends HPV-vaccination not only for the prevention of cervical cancer but also of all kind of cancers caused by HPV and, because of the morbidity, for prevention of ano-genital warts.
 - The NITAG recommends **yearly prophylactic vaccination of one birth cohort of girls and boys aged between 9 and 14 years with 2 doses** of an adequate HPV-vaccine (0-6 months). To guarantee a high vaccination coverage this vaccination should be mainly organised within the **school health services (SHS)**

HPV-vaccination programme in Flanders - organization

- ▶ School Health Services (SHS):
 - all schools with an officially recognised educational programme are linked to a SHS.
 - In the school year of recommended vaccinations an **invitation letter and an informative leaflet** are given to all girls and their parents.
 - When authorized, SHS give the vaccinations to the children without any cost.

- ▶ Other vaccinators: GPs or paediatricians:
 - **can get the vaccines free of charge** as well, ordered online;
 - only a consultation fee must be paid, as for other consultations.

HPV-vaccination programme in Flanders - history

- ▶ From September 2010 onwards:
 - yearly one cohort of girls in the 1st year of secondary school (11-12 years).
 - main birth cohort of the 1st school year of the vaccination programme: girls born in 1998
- ▶ Vaccines used in the vaccination programme for girls:
 - September 2010 – June 2014: Gardasil®, 3 dose schedule
 - July 2014 – June 2018: Cervarix®, 2 dose schedule
 - July 2018 – June 2022: Gardasil 9®, 2 dose schedule (planned)
- ▶ No decision yet about vaccination of boys
 - Incremental cost effectivity with a vaccination coverage in girls of $\pm 90\%$

Conclusions

- ▶ HPV-vaccination of young girls is well accepted in Flanders. **High vaccination coverage of about 90% could be reached mainly by vaccination in SHS.**
- ▶ The availability of the partially reimbursed 9-valent HPV vaccine hasn't impacted the HPV-vaccination programme substantially
- ▶ The **coordinated approach** and communication with the Vaccination Board helps for common messages about common topics or issues (e.g. HPV, maternal vaccination)

HPV-vaccination programme information leaflet (2016)



Enkele veelgestelde
vragen over de
HPV-vaccinatie

Wie kan gratis ingeënt worden?

Het gratis vaccin tegen HPV wordt jaarlijks aangeboden aan alle meisjes in het eerste jaar secundair onderwijs in Vlaanderen. Meisjes vanaf het tweede jaar secundair onderwijs kunnen wel gevaccineerd worden door de huisarts, maar niet met de gratis vaccins en niet door het CLB. Voor hen is er een gedeeltelijke terugbetaling bij de aankoop van het vaccin in de apotheek.

Waarom zijn er twee inentingen nodig?

Na één inenting maakt je lichaam nog niet voldoende afweerstoffen aan om goed en langdurig beschermd te zijn tegen een besmetting met de HPV-types. Bij de tweede inenting wordt de afweerreactie versterkt, waardoor je voldoende beschermd bent. Stoppen na één inenting is niet gevaarlijk, maar je bent dan niet voldoende beschermd tegen het virus.

»

«

Hoe groot is de kans dat je ooit een HPV-infectie oploopt?

Die kans is groot. Meer dan 80% van de mensen loopt vroeg of laat een HPV-infectie op. Meestal merken ze daar niets van. Het virus wordt het meest verspreid op vrij jonge leeftijd.



“Ik heb de folder
gelezen, maar ik
zit nog met vragen.”



Extra informatie vind je op
onze website

www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be/HPV.

Voor meer informatie kun je ook altijd terecht bij **de huisarts of het CLB**.

Of stel je vraag aan de Vlaamse overheid.
Bel gratis 1700.

www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be

via: Dit Doraat Agentschap Zorg en Gezondheid - 08/2014



Vlaanderen
is zorg



TWEE PRIKJES NU KUNNEN JE LATER VEEL LEED BESPAREN

Gratis inenting tegen baarmoederhalskanker voor alle meisjes van het eerste jaar secundair onderwijs in Vlaanderen.

AGENTSCHAP
ZORG & GEZONDHEID



Flanders
State of the Art