Table of Contents

1 Introduction 1

1.1 Cervical cancer 1

1.1.1. Cervical cancer epidemiology in the world 1

1.1.2. Cervical cancer epidemiology in Bolivia 3

1.2. Human papillomavirus 4

1.2.1. Brief history 4

1.2.2. Structural and functional characteristics of HPV 5

1.2.3. Phylogenetic and epidemiological classification of HPV 7

1.2.4. HPV infection epidemiology 9

1.2.5. HPV Vertical transmission mode 11

1.2.6. HPV Horizontal transmission mode 12

1. 2.6.1 Sexual 12

1. 2.6.2 Non sexual 12

1.3. HPV infection 13

1.3.1. Productive infection. 13

1.3.2. Abortive infection as a precursor of cervical cancer 15

1.3.3. Latency phase or asymptomatic infection and regression 19

1.3.4. HPV immune escape mechanisms 19

1.3.4.1. Immune escape mechanism through HPV infectious cycle 20

1.3.4.2. Immune escape mechanisms by host alteration gene expression 20

1.3.4.3. Immune escape mechanisms by alteration of protein functions 21

1.3.4.4. Immune escape by altered cytoplasmic trafficking of host proteins 21

1.3.4.5. Immune escape due to inappropriate innate leukocyte activity in HPV-associated cancers 22

1.4. Risk factors for the development of cervical cancer 22

1.4.1. Viral factor 23

1.4.2. Cofactors 23

1.4.2.1. Age of first sexual intercourse 23

1.4.2.2. Number of sexual partners 23

1.4.2.3. Multiparity 24

1.4.2.4. Hormonal contraception 24

1.4.2.5. Tobacco 25
1.4.2.6. Coinfections and immunosuppression 25
1.4.2.7. Medical care access 27
1.5. Evolution of preneoplastic lesions to cervical cancer 27
1.5.1. Changes in the terminology and correlation of the cytological and histological classification of preneoplastic cervical lesions 27
1.5.2. Progression and regression of preneoplastic lesions 29
1.6. HR-HPV associated diseases 30
1.7. Prevention of cervical cancer 31
1.7.1. Primary prevention 31
1.7.1.1. HPV Vaccines 31
1.7.1.2. Modification of sexual behavior 33
1.7.2. Secondary prevention 34
1.7.2.1. Screening at the cervical transformation zone in the secondary prevention 34
1.7.2.2. Screening methods 36
1.7.2.2.1. Cytology. 36
a) Conventional cytology 36
b) Cytology on liquid basis 37
c) Cytology nomenclature 37
1.7.2.2.2. Visual Inspection 39
. a) Visual inspection under acetic acid 39
b) Inspection with Lugol's iodine (VILI) 40
1.7.2.2.3. HPV infection detection 40
a) Nucleic acid amplification assays 42
b) Signal amplification assays 45
c) HPV self-sampling 47
1.7.2.3. Clinical assessment 48
a) Colposcopy 48
b) Biopsy 49
c) Endocervical curettage 49
1.7.2.4. Treatment methods of precancerous lesions. 49
a) Cryotherapy 50
b) Loop electrosurgical excision procedure 51

c) Cold knife conization 52
1.7.2.5. Management according to histology results 52
a) Low-grade intraepithelial lesions 52
b) High-grade intraepithelial lesions 52
1.7.3 Tertiary prevention 53
1.8. Current status of the cervix cancer prevention program in Bolivia 54
2. Objectives 55
3. Materials and Methods 56
3.1. Organization of the intervention team 56
3.1.1. General coordinator 56
3.1.2. Responsible for the information system 57
3.1.3. Laboratory analysis of HPV 57
3.1.4. Cytology analysis 57
3.1.5. Responsible for VIA 57
3.1.6. Responsible for the area of gynecology and colposcopy 57
3.1.7. Responsible for the area of recruitment, education and monitoring of patients 58
3.1.8. Responsible for the histopathology laboratory 58
3.1.9 Responsible for hospital infrastructure and medical support 58
3.2. Study population 59
3.2.1. Phase 1: cervical cancer knowledge assessment 62
3.2.2. Phase 2: assessment of acceptance and confidence in self-sampling 62
3.2.3. Phase 3: Evaluation of the agreement in the HR- HPV detection between the self-sampling and the physician-sampling 62
3.2.4. Phase 4: Evaluation of HPV self-sampling on screening coverage 62
3.2.5. Phase 5: Sensitivity, specificity and predictive values of HR-HPV performed on self-samples, to detect CIN 2+ or worse lesions in a primary screened population 63
3.2.6. Phase 6: Sensitivity and positive predictive values of Pap smear and VIA to detect CIN 2+ or worse lesion in a HR-HPV DNA positive population 64
3.2.7. Phase 7: Analysis of the lost samples in the study population 64
3.2.8. Phase 8: Quality control on biopsy analysis 65

3.2.9. Phase 9: Determination of the of use of different behaviors and therapeutic treatments for CIN, CIN2, and CIN 3 lesions in 2nd level hospitals 65
3. 3. Exclusion and inclusion factors 65
3.4. Procedures 66
3.4.1. HPV Self-sampling collection procedure 66
3.4.2. HPV physician- sampling collection procedure 69
3.4.3. Surveys 69
3.4.4 Screening strategies 73
3.4.4.1. Mobile strategy 73
3.4.4.2. Stationary strategy 76
3.4.5. HR-HPV DNA detection 78
3.4.6. Cytological analysis 82
3.4.7. Visual Inspection under Acetic Acid 82
3.4.8. Colposcopy 83
3.4.9. Biopsy Analysis 87
3.4.10. Refresher courses on the treatment of cervical preneoplastic lesions 88
3.5. Statistics 89
4. Results 92
4.1. Assessment of Bolivian women knowledge about cervical cancer and acceptance and confidence towards HPV test self-sampling 92
4.1.1. Age distribution and level of education of the population 92
4.1.2. Degree of knowledge about cervical cancer and HPV and their prevention 93
4.1.3. Women acceptability post self-sampling procedure 94
4.1.4. Women confidence post self-sampling procedure 96
4.1.5. Evaluation of the agreement in the HR- HPV DNA detection between the self-sampling and the physician-sampling 98
4.1.6. Impact of HPV awareness campaign and self-sampling testing on screening coverage in the District 9 of Cochabamba 100
4.2. Evaluation of the effectiveness of high-risk human papilloma virus self-sampling test for cervical cancer screening in Bolivia 103
4.2.1. Gynecological history of the population in the phases that evaluated the clinical efficacy of the cervical cancer screenings 103

4.2.2. Sensitivity, specificity and predictive values of HR-HPV detection test on self-samples, Pap smear and VIA to detect CIN 2+ or worse lesions in a primary screened population 104
4.2.3. Sensitivity, specificity and predictive values of Pap smear and VIA to detect CIN 2+ or worse lesion in a HR-HPV DNA positive population 105
4.2.4. Quality control on biopsy analysis 107
4.2.5. Screening samples lost in the study population 108
4.3. Determination of the use of different clinic behaviors and therapeutic treatment methods for CIN 1, CIN 2 and CIN3 lesion in 2nd level hospitals 108
5. Discussion 111
5.1. Is Bolivia ready to receive a new screening test? 111
5.2. Current knowledge on cervical cancer and HPV 113
5.3. Acceptability of self-sampling collection 113
5.4. Confidence in self-sampling collection 114
5.5. Evaluation of the agreement in the detection of the HR-HPV between the self-sampling and the physician-sampling 115
5.6. Impact of the community participation and self-sampling on screening coverage 116
5.7. Sensitivity, specificity and predictive values of HR- HPV, Pap smear and VIA to detect CIN 2+ or worse lesions in a primary screened population 118
5.8. Sensitivity specificity and predictive values of Pap smear and VIA to detect CIN 2+ or worse lesion in a HR-HPV DNA positive population 120
5.9. Screening samples lost in the study population 121
5.10 Quality control on biopsy analysis 123
5.11. Determination of the use of different clinic behaviors and therapeutic Treatments methods for CIN 1, CIN 2 and CIN3 lesion in 2nd level hospitals 124
6. Conclusions 127
7. References 129