



Advancing Cervical Cancer Elimination in Albania Through Screening and Early Diagnosis

Prof. Asc Enkeleda Prifti¹
Dr. med Nensi A. Dilo²

¹ HEAD OF THE GYNECOLOGY DEPARTMENT, UHO "KOÇO GLIOZHENI", TIRANA, ALBANIA
² RESIDENT DOCTOR IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY, UHO "KOÇO GLIOZHENI", TIRANA, ALBANIA

BACKGROUND

- Cervical cancer is the second most common type of cancer among women of reproductive age in Albania.
- Persistent high-risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) has been proven to cause all cervical cancers.

OBJECTIVES

- To analyze epidemiological and clinical characteristics of cervical cancer in Albania.
- To evaluate cervical cancer screening tests and early diagnostic strategies in Albania

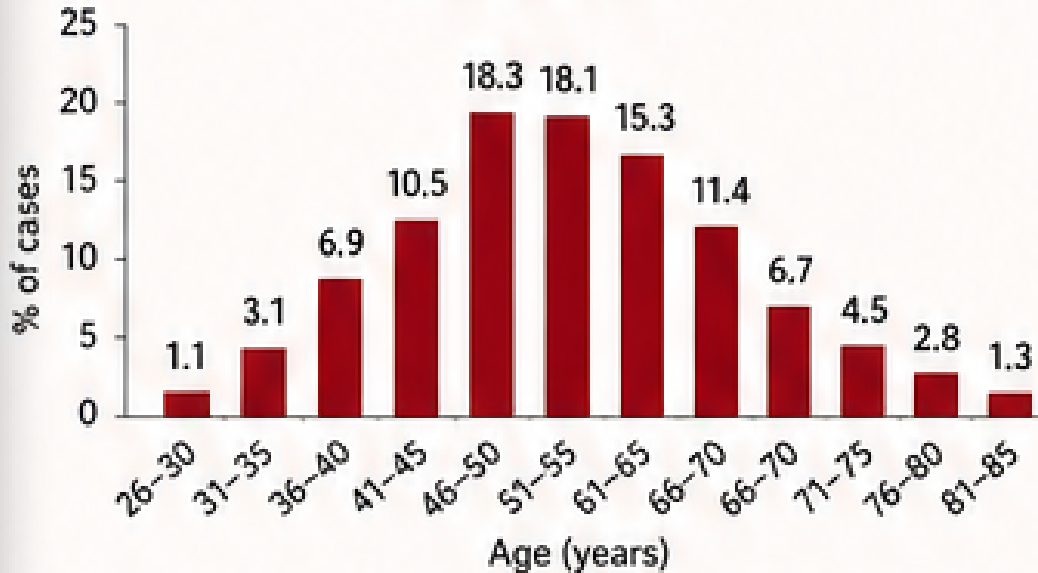
KEY MESSAGE

- Despite being largely preventable through effective screening and vaccination programs, many cases in Albania are still diagnosed at advanced stages.

STUDY 1 - ONCOLOGY COHORT (QSUNT)

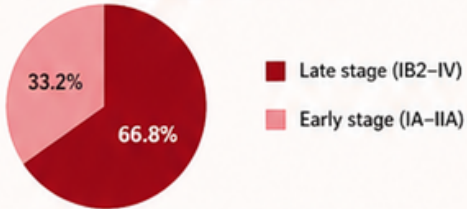
Retrospective study | 2015-2022 | N=640 women

1. AGE DISTRIBUTION



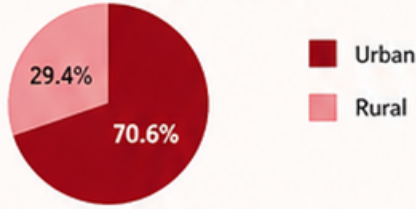
Mean age: 49 years
Peak incidence: 46-55 years
Range: 26 - 85 years

2. STAGE AT DIAGNOSIS



Two-thirds of women were diagnosed at advanced stages.

3. RESIDENCE

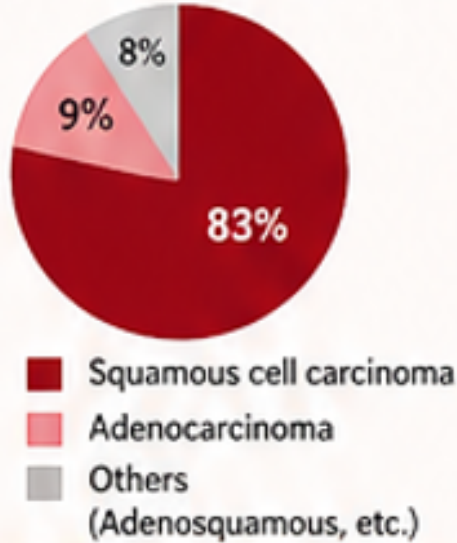


Rural patients are more likely to be diagnosed at late stages (p < 0.05).

4. RISK FACTORS

- Early sexual activity (<20 years): 63%
- Multiparity (2-4 births most common)
- Smoking association: 42%

5. HISTOLOGY

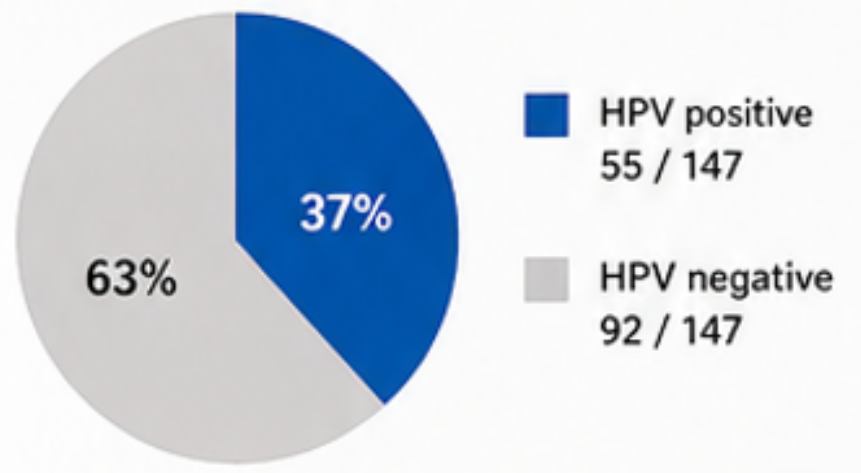


Squamous cell carcinoma is the predominant histological type.

STUDY 2 - THINPREP & HPV TEST

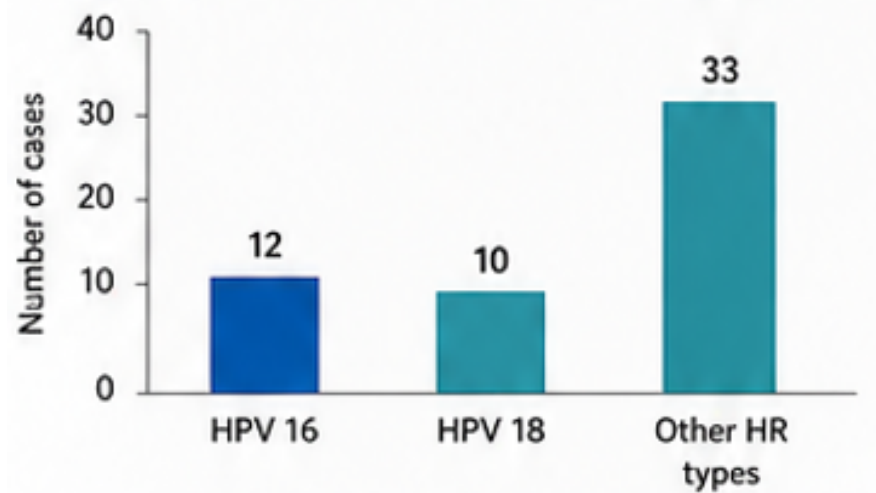
Retrospective study | 2021-2024 | N=147 women

1. HPV STATUS

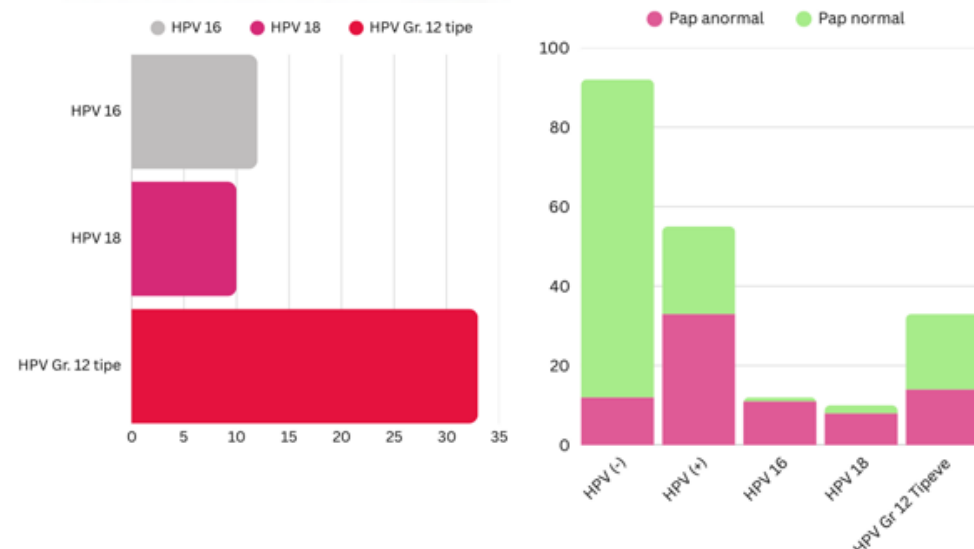


Overall HPV positivity: 37%

2. HPV POSITIVE - TYPE DISTRIBUTION (N = 55)



Other HR types include: 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 51, 52, 59, 66, 68



CONCLUSIONS

Cervical cancer remains a significant public health issue in Albania.

Late-stage diagnosis is still predominant, especially in rural populations.

HPV co-testing is feasible and effective for early detection and risk stratification.

Implementation of a national screening program is urgently needed.

References:

World Health Organization. (2020, November 17). Albania upgrades its cervical cancer screening programme with WHO's support. Okunade, K. S. (2020). Human papillomavirus and cervical cancer. Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 40(5), 602-608.

Contact

Prof. Asc Enkeleda Prifti
enkeledaprifti@yahoo.com