



# IndoCerCa: Community Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention in Indonesia

## Project type

interdisciplinary pilot project     cross-sector project     global health postdoc fellowship

## Research areas involved

Biomedical sciences     Public health  
 Social sciences and humanities     Engineering and other sciences

## Project duration

01.11.2021 – 31.12.2023

## Project team

Name	Organization	Discipline(s)
Prof. Jörg Haier	Hannover Medical School (MHH)	Cancer, Global Health, outcome research
Prof. Peter Hillemanns	Hannover Medical School (MHH)	Gynecology
Dr. Supriyatningsih Wenang	Muhammadiyah University Yogyakarta (UMY)	Gynecology
Detty Siti Nurdianti	Gadjah Mada University Yogyakarta (GMU)	Public Health, Gynecology
Prof. Ova Emilia	Gadjah Mada University Yogyakarta (GMU)	Rector, Public Health, Gynecology
Dr. Dian Triana Sinulingga, M.Epid	Dharmais Cancer Hospital	Research Manager
Dr. Wini Hanafi Dharmais	Cancer Hospital	Public Health, Gynecology





## Case study

**Introduction:** LMICs, such as Indonesia, still face relevant implementation barriers of related screening programs, such as for cervical cancer. Many aspects are related to cancer literacy requiring communication strategies adapted to the target groups and their socioeconomic environment.

**Methods:** An implementation trial for self-sampling based screening was conducted covering the entire District of Kulon Progo (Province Yogyakarta). Four self-sampling devices were primarily included and a molecular HPV detection kit was used. HPV-positive women were treated according to the Indonesian guidelines (colposcopy, cytology, biopsy, treatment of advanced lesions). The trial was accompanied by acceptance questionnaires that were provided for participating women, involved midwives and cadres/village leaders (social environment). Training workshops for midwives, gynecologists and social environment representatives were conceptualized.

**Results:** Specific training programs were realized for midwives, social environment and gynecologists to extent knowledge and competences related to cervical cancer screening (overall ~400 participants). 2100 women in 21 Puskesmas (primary care units) were recruited within the trial. Acceptance of self-sampling for HPV in the recruited cohort was 100%. Three of the four devices provided high technical applicability (90-95% technical validity for HPV detection). The investigated population had an unexpected low (2.4%) prevalence of HPV without differences between women from rural and urban Puskesmas. Response rate for the acceptance questionnaire was ~98%. Acceptance of follow up treatment for HPV-positive women was 93% and 7% refused further clinical examinations.

**Impact:** According to the policy briefs with the Indonesian MoH and other governmental representatives this communication concept, specifically designed according to Indonesian cancer literacy barriers, will accompany the planned national roll-out of the self-sampling screening approach for cervical cancer. It will assist healthcare professional in the entire country to enhance shared decision making for those screening programs. Policy briefs were provided to the Ambassador of Indonesia, the Minister of Health Indonesia and the Governor of the Province Yogyakarta in personal meetings.

**Lessons learnt:** Self-sampling-based HPV detection can be used in a population-based primary care setting. It requires sufficient training of the involved healthcare providers. For implementation research consideration of the social environment is of utmost importance regarding acceptance of innovative diagnostic or therapeutic approaches. Target group-specific educational material can assist implementation and acceptance of cancer prevention programs. Involvement of governmental representatives from the beginning of the project was critical for its conduction and the distribution of the results.

**Produced material:** 5 films for cancer literacy (already available at GLOHRA website)

Reports about project: Medical Tribune\_Onko\_2023\_07\_S33; Zeit für Forschung  
\_\_Gesundheit\_\_2023\_09\_19\_GLOHRA

At least two scientific publications will be submitted in Q1/2024.

Pictures from workshops and training activities can be provided upon request



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