

HPV Knowledge Among HPV+ Women

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Objective: To assess knowledge and information seeking among women recently receiving an HPV+ diagnosis. **Methods:** A 2-phase mixed methods design was used. In both phase I (qualitative) and phase II (quantitative), women with scheduled gynecological exams and Pap smears at clinic sites were approached to participate. **Results:** Women expressed confusion about HPV, and most could not correctly

articulate the meaning of their diagnosis. Women do engage in further information seeking, especially through the Internet. **Conclusion:** Identifying gaps in knowledge among HPV+ women who need clear messages to facilitate their comprehension of the diagnosis is an important public health activity.

Key words: cervical cancer, human papillomavirus (HPV), pap smear
Am J Health Behav. 2008;32(5):477-487
