# **RESEARCH PAPER**

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# Estimating the epidemiological impact and cost-effectiveness profile of a nonavalent HPV vaccine in Spain

Jesús De La Fuente<sup>a</sup>, Juan José Hernandez Aguado<sup>a</sup>, María San Martín<sup>b</sup>, Paula Ramirez Boix<sup>c</sup>, Sergio Cedillo Gómez<sup>c</sup>, and Noelia López<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Unit of Lower Genital Tract Pathology, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Hospital Universitario Infanta Leonor, Madrid, Spain; <sup>b</sup>Medical Department, MSD Spain, Madrid, Spain; <sup>c</sup>Outcomes Research, MSD Spain, Madrid, Spain

#### ABSTRACT

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the main causes of infection-related cancer. The bivalent vaccine (2vHPV) (16/18) and quadrivalent (6/11/16/18) HPV vaccine (4vHPV) have been included in the Spanish vaccination calendar since 2007. The new nonavalent HPV vaccine (9vHPV), approved in Europe in 2015, includes nine HPV types 6/11/16/18/31/33/45/52/58 and has been available in Spain since May 2017. Our study aims to estimate the epidemiological impact and the cost-effectiveness of a girls-only and a gender-neutral vaccination program with 9vHPV compared to the current vaccination program in Spain. A dynamic transmission model simulating the natural history of HPV infections was calibrated to the Spanish setting and applied to estimate costs and quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) associated with vaccination strategies using a payer perspective and a 100-year time horizon.

A girls-only vaccination strategy at age 12 years with 9vHPV was found to be a cost-effective strategy compared with 4vHPV (incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) of €7,718 per QALY). Compared with girls-only vaccination with 4vHPV, gender-neutral vaccination with 9vHPV was associated with further reductions of up to 28.5% in the incidence of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) 2/3 and 17.1% in the incidence of cervical cancer, as well as with a 14.0% reduction in cervical cancer mortality. Furthermore, a gender-neutral vaccination program with 9vHPV could potentially be cost-effective considering some parameters as head and neck protection or discount rates, leading to a reduction in the burden of HPV-related diseases in both sexes in the Spanish population.

# Introduction

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the most frequent sexually transmitted infections and one of the main causes of infection-related cancer, accounting for 4.8% of the total cancer burden worldwide.<sup>1</sup> To date, more than 150 HPV types have been completely sequenced.<sup>2</sup> High-risk HPV types are related to almost all cases of high-grade cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) and invasive cervical cancers. In Europe, between 86.9% and 100% of precancerous anogenital lesions in men and women are attributable to HPV, with 47% of cases related to HPV types 6/11/16/18 and 82% related to HPV types 6/11/16/18/31/33/45/ 52/58. Moreover, an average of 83% of anogenital cancers in men and women are related to HPV, with 72.8%-87.1% related to HPV types 16/18 and 89% related to HPV types 16/18/31/33/ 45/52/58.<sup>3</sup> In addition, low-risk HPV types 6/11 cause approximately 90% of cases of genital warts.<sup>4</sup> The three currently available HPV vaccines are the bivalent vaccine (2vHPV), the quadrivalent vaccine (4vHPV), and, more recently, the nonavalent vaccine (9vHPV). 2vHPV includes only the HPV types 16/ 18<sup>5</sup> and 4vHPV includes the HPV types 6/11/16/18.<sup>6</sup> Both vaccines are indicated for use in individuals from nine years of age onward for preventing precancerous anogenital lesions, cervical and anal cancer associated with certain types of HPV,<sup>5,6</sup> and, in the case of 4vHPV, also for preventing genital warts.<sup>6</sup>

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Cervical cancer; Costeffectiveness; Genital warts; HPV; Spain; Nonavalent HPV vaccine

Both vaccines induce a strong immune response.<sup>7</sup> They were initially approved in a three-dose schedule, but an alternative two-dose schedule was subsequently approved for 2vHPV in children aged 9 to 14 years<sup>8</sup> and for 4vHPV for children aged 9 to 13 years.<sup>9</sup> Both vaccines were licensed in 2006-2007 and were included in the Spanish vaccination program for 2007-2008. The new 9vHPV was developed to protect against most oncogenic HPV genotypes and relevant low-risk types and includes HPV types 6/11/16/18/31/33/45/52/58<sup>10</sup>: four of these types were already covered by 4vHPV, and five other oncogenic HPV types. In the pivotal trial<sup>11,12</sup>, 9vHPV was compared with 4vHPV in women aged 16-26 years. The results in the per protocol population (completely vaccinated, seronegative on day 1, and PCR-negative from day 1 to month 7 for the HPV types analyzed) showed that 9vHPV reduced by 96.7% the risk of the combined incidence of CIN2/3, adenocarcinoma in situ, cervical cancer, high-grade vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia (VIN2/3), high-grade vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia (VaIN2/3), vulvar cancer, and vaginal cancer caused by the five additional HPV types (31/33/45/52/58). This study also showed that the immune response for the four common HPV types was non-inferior and that geometric mean titers were 50-fold higher for each of the five new HPV types.<sup>11,12</sup>

9vHPV was approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in December 2014<sup>13</sup> and received

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a positive opinion from the European Medicine Agency's (EMA) Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) in 2015<sup>14</sup>. Since 2016, it has been available in some European countries, such as Austria and Germany. The two-dose schedule was also approved that year.<sup>15</sup> In Spain, this vaccine has been available since May 2017.

An HPV vaccination program with a three-dose schedule was introduced into the Spanish vaccination calendar in 2007 for girls aged 11 to 14 years. At that moment, only 2vHPV and 4vHPV were available. Nowadays, HPV vaccination targets 12-year-old girls based on a two-dose schedule,<sup>16</sup> with an estimated national vaccine coverage of 77.8% in 2016.<sup>17</sup> 9vHPV is already included in the vaccination calendar of some regions in Spain. The Spanish HPV vaccination program is mainly tender-based, and these tenders and the vaccine delivery system are managed directly by each of the 19 Spanish regions. Ten of the 19 regions have a school-based delivery program; in the remaining nine, HPV vaccination is managed in primary care centers. As no catch-up for women older than age 14 years was implemented at the beginning of the HPV vaccination program, an individualized recommendation to vaccinate women not targeted by the national vaccination program has been in place since 2007. However, the coverage reached in this group of women until age 45 years does not exceed 1%.<sup>18</sup>

In Spain, different cervical screening strategies are applied in different regions. Most are opportunistic and heterogeneous in their characteristics and application criteria. It is estimated that around 71% of women aged 25 to 65 have been screened at least once during the last three years under these opportunistic screening programs.<sup>19</sup>

The present analysis aimed to evaluate the costeffectiveness of implementing a girls-only or a genderneutral (girls and boys) vaccination program with 9vHPV in Spain compared with the current vaccination strategy (girls only) with 4vHPV.

# **Results**

## Model calibration

The model outcomes were consistent with the targets in overall incidence and mortality rates. However, the incidence of CIN and the incidence and mortality of vaginal and vulvar cancers were significantly underestimated, with a > 15% difference between model outcomes and targets (see Tables A6 and A7).

## **Epidemiological results**

The adoption of 9vHPV would add benefits over 4vHPV. The model shows further reductions in the number of cases of disease and deaths, as well as in the incidence and mortality rates of diseases related to HPV types 16/18/31/33/45/52/58 over the analyzed time horizon with 9vHPV compared with 4vHPV in the girls-only vaccination scenario (Tables 1 and 2).

Figure 1 shows the epidemiological impact of the vaccination strategies over a time horizon of 100 years. A significant

Table	1. Disease	events and	d deaths	related	to HPV	types	6/11/16,7	/18/31/33/	/45/
52/58	prevented	over a tin	ie horizc	on of 10	) years.				

	,		
	4vHPV GIRLS		9vHPV GIRLS
	vs 9vHPV	4vHPV GIRLS	vs 9vHPV
	GIRLS	vs 9vHPV GNV	GNV
CIN1 cases	48,507	55,595	7,088
CIN2/3 cases	111,090	132.496	21.406
Cervical cancer cases	15,295	18,665	3,369
Cervical cancer deaths	3,114	3,834	720
Vaginal cancer	0	31	31
Anal cancer cases			
Females	45	195	151
Males	33	855	822
Vaginal cancer deaths	0	8	8
Anal cancer deaths			
Females	13	57	45
Males	10	257	247
Genital warts cases			
Females	0	197,194	197,194
Males	0	607,659	607,659
			·

9vHPV, nonavalent vaccine; 4vHPV, quadrivalent vaccine; GNV, genderneutral, vaccination, CIN, cervical intraepithelial neoplasia.

 
 Table 2. Additional reductions in the incidence and mortality rates of diseases related to HPV types 6/11/16/18/31/33/45/52/58 over a time horizon of 100 years.

loo years.			
	4vHPV GIRLS		9vHPV GIRLS
	vs 9vHPV	4vHPV GIRLS	vs 9vHPV
	GIRLS	vs 9vHPV GNV	GNV
CIN1 incidence	30.5%	35.0%	6.4%
CIN2/3 incidence	23.9%	28.5%	6.1%
Cervical cancer incidence	14.0%	17.1%	3.%
Cervical cancer mortality	11.4%	14.0%	3.0%
Vaginal cancer incidence	0.0%	2.5%	2.5%
Anal cancer incidence			
Females	1.0%	4.4%	3.5%
Males	0.4%	11.2%	10.8%
Vaginal cancer mortality	0.0%	2.3%	2.3%
Anal cancer mortality			
Females	0.9%	4.0%	3.1%
Males	0.4%	10.3%	9.9%
Genital warts incidence			
Females	0.0%	29.2%	29.2%
Males	0.0%	44.3%	44.3%

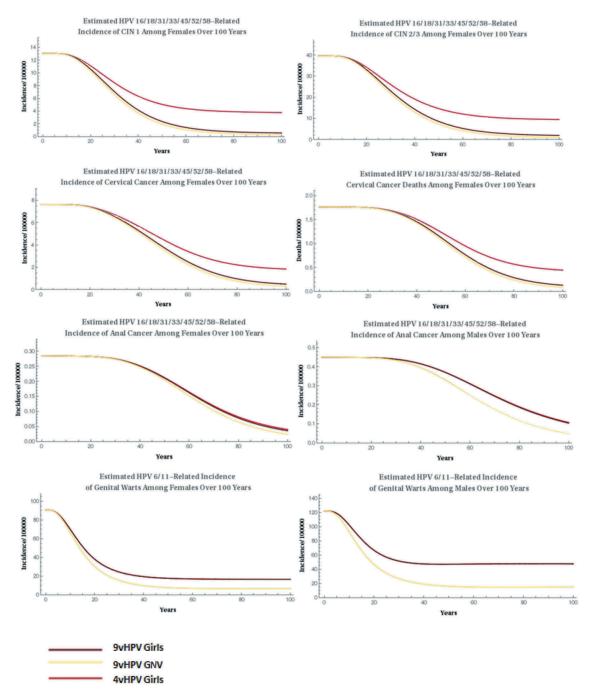
9vHPV Girls, nonavalent vaccine in girls; 9vHPV GNV, nonavalent vaccine in girls and boys; 4vHPV Girls, quadrivalent vaccine in girls; CIN, cervical intraepithelial neoplasia.

decrease in the incidence and mortality rates of diseases related to HPV types 6/11/16/18/31/33/45/52/58 becomes noticeable after 25 years of simulation. Moreover, considerable reductions in the number of cases of cervical and anal cancers begin approximately 20 years after the start of the vaccination program. The same trend is seen for genital warts and CIN, whose reductions begin 10 years earlier.

The additional benefits observed with 9vHPV were greater when the gender-neutral vaccination with 9vHPV was compared with the girls-only vaccination with 4vHPV. Furthermore, reductions in incidence were recorded, as follows: 35% in CIN1, 28.5% in CIN2/3, 17.1% in cervical cancer, and 14% in cervical cancer mortality (Tables 1 and 2).

The incidence of genital warts related to HPV types 6/11 further decreases with gender-neutral vaccination with 9vHPV compared with girls-only vaccination with 4vHPV.

By using only 9vHPV, the inclusion of boys in the national immunization program could also positively impact the epidemiology of HPV, with reductions of 29.2% and 44.3% in the



**Figure 1.** Epidemiological impact of GNV vaccination strategies over a 100-year time horizon. \*Related to the HPV types included in the nonavalent vaccine (HPV types 6/11/16/18/31/33/45/52/58).

incidence of genital warts in females and males, respectively, and 10.8% in the incidence of anal cancer in males and 3.6–6.4% in the incidence of cervical pathology in females (Tables 1 and 2).

## **Cost-effectiveness results**

Our analysis shows that switching to 9vHPV compared with 4vHPV is highly cost-effective in Spain. In a girlsonly vaccination scenario, 9vHPV is considered costeffective vs. 4vHPV while maintaining a stable VCR (77.8%), with an incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) of  $\notin$ 7,718 per quality-adjusted life year (QALY), which is below the threshold commonly used in Spain  $(\notin 30,000/\text{QALY})^{20}$ . Compared with a girls-only vaccination scenario with 4vHPV, the cost-effectiveness result for the gender-neutral vaccination scenario with 9vHPV ( $\notin 30,426/\text{QALY}$ ) falls very close to the reference threshold used in Spain (Table 3), considering a VCR of 77.8% for girls and 55% for boys.

Compared with girls only vaccination scenario with 9vHPV, the cost-effectiveness results for the genderneutral vaccination scenario with 9vHPV exceeds the Spanish cost-effectiveness threshold in the base case analysis ( $\notin$ 53,244/QALY).

Table 3. Cost-effectiveness results in the base case analysis.

Comparison		9vHPV		Comparator				
9vHPV	Comparator	Costs/ person (€)	QALYs/person	Costs/ person (€)	QALYs/ person	Incremental costs/person (€)	Incremental QALYs/ person	Cost per QALY (€/QALY)
Girls	4vHPV Girls	428.07	28,605.65	424.81	28,605.23	3.26	0.00042	7,718
Gender-neutral	4vHPV Girls	450.42	28,606.07	424.81	28,605.23	25.61	0.00084	30,426
Gender-neutral	9vHPV Girls	450.42	28,606.07	428.07	28,605.65	22.35	0.00042	53,244

QALY, Quality-Adjusted Life Year; 9vHPV Girls, nonavalent vaccine in girls; 9vHPV gender-neutral, nonavalent vaccine in girls and boys; 4vHPV Girls, quadrivalent vaccine in girls.

## Sensitivity analyses

Sensitivity analyses were performed deterministically to test for uncertainty. The impact on the ICER result of changing inputs such as VCR in boys and girls, VCR in boys only, discount rate, variations in costs, and considering head and neck protection conferred by vaccines was assessed (Figure 2).

The results of the sensitivity analyses for VCR in the girlsonly and gender neutral scenarios suggested that increasing the coverage rate by 20% in both females and males and by 10% in males yielded higher ICERs.

Variations in the discount rates can also modify the results significantly. Assuming a discount rate for health outcomes of 1.5% resulted in lower ICERs ( $\epsilon$ 2,669/QALY for the girls-only vaccination with 9vHPV vs 4vHPV and  $\epsilon$ 11,763/QALY for the gender neutral vaccination with 9vHPV vs 4vHPV girls-only vaccination). In this scenario, a switch to a gender-neutral vaccination with 9vHPV vs girls-only vaccination with 9vHPV would be also considered cost-effective, with an ICER of  $\epsilon$ 23,349/QALY.

Finally, the base case analysis considered only the diseases included in the summary of product characteristics of the vaccines. Owing to increasing evidence for the role of HPV infections in head and neck cancer, we included this variable in the sensitivity analysis. The health and economic benefits of a gender-neutral vaccination program with 9vHPV increased if head and neck cancer was considered in the analysis. In this case, the ICER of gender-neutral vaccination with an 9vHPV scenario compared with girls-only vaccination with 4vHPV decreased below the €30,000/QALY threshold (€15,561/ QALY), thus indicating that gender neutral vaccination with 9vHPV is a cost-effective strategy in Spain. When genderneutral vaccination was compared with girls-only vaccination, both with 9vHPV and considering protection against head and neck cancer, the ICER for gender-neutral vaccination with 9vHPV was €18,274/QALY. Therefore, in this scenario, gender-neutral vaccination with 9vHPV would also be considered cost-effective.

## Discussion

This is the first cost-effectiveness analysis of a vaccination program with 9vHPV in Spain.

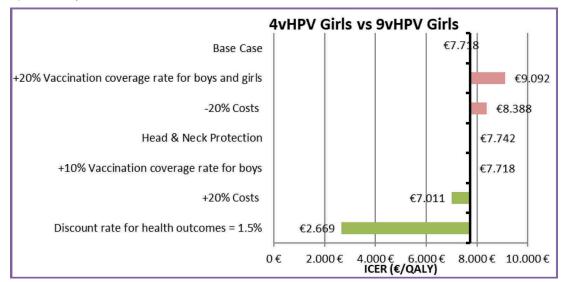
A dynamic model was adapted to Spain in order to compare this new HPV vaccine with 4vHPV, which is already included in the national vaccination program. The model was applied in two vaccination scenarios, girls-only and gender-neutral. The results show that replacing 4vHPV with 9vHPV could reduce the incidence and mortality rates of HPV-related diseases in Spain and would be costeffective.

The inclusion of 9vHPV in the Spanish HPV vaccination program could decrease the frequency of diseases related to HPV types 6/11/16/18/31/33/45/52/58 compared with 4vHPV. This clinical benefit is greater when the gender-neutral vaccination scenario with 9vHPV is compared with girls-only vaccination with 4vHPV, resulting in an additional 18,665 prevented cases of cervical cancer, up to 804,853 prevented cases of genital warts (607,659 in men and 197,194 in women), and reductions in the incidence rate of anal cancer of up to 4% in women and 11% in men.

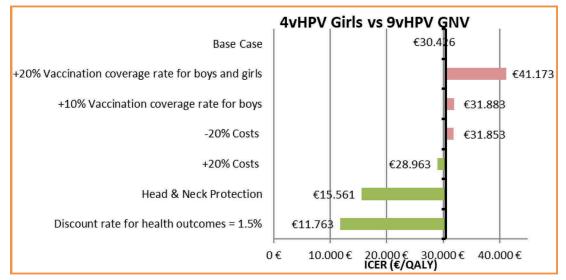
In economically developed countries such as those in Western Europe, the implementation of cervical screening programs has significantly reduced the incidence of cervical cancer in women. However, other diseases associated with HPV, such as anal cancer, squamous cell cancers of the oral cavity, and oropharyngeal cancer, are not amenable to screening, and their incidence is rising in both sexes. This situation has resulted in a considerable increase in the burden of HPVassociated cancers in men.<sup>21</sup> In Spain, a recent study found that hospitalization rate due to malignant neoplasm and in situ carcinoma of the anus in males increased significantly between 2009 and 2013. During this period, 2,060 hospitalizations due to malignant neoplasm and in situ carcinoma were registered in males.<sup>22</sup> Additionally, the crude incidence rate of head and neck cancer in Spain is five-fold higher in men than in women.<sup>23</sup>

As mentioned, our study shows that in the current Spanish HPV vaccination scenario, where only girls are included, 9vHPV is a cost-effective strategy compared with 4vHPV. In comparison with the girls-only vaccination with 4vHPV, gender-neutral vaccination with 9vHPV is at the limit of cost-effectiveness, based on list prices. After including head and neck cancers in the analysis, genderneutral vaccination with 9vHPV is cost-effective vs. girlsonly vaccination with 4vHPV with an ICER of €15,561/ QALY. Moreover, again based on list prices and compared with girls-only vaccination with 9vHPV, gender-neutral vaccination with 9vHPV would be cost-effective, with an ICER of €18,274/QALY.

Gender-neutral vaccination could substantially reduce the burden of HPV-associated disease in men, irrespective of their sexual orientation, with a rapid decline in the prevalence of HPV in the population. In this context, implementing vaccination programs for both boys and girls seems to be an efficient public health strategy. A) Girls-only vaccination scenario with 4vHPV versus 9vHPV



B) Girls-only vaccination with 4vHPV versus gender-neutral vaccination with 9vHPV



C) Girls-only vaccination with 9vHPV versus gender-neutral vaccination with 9vHPV

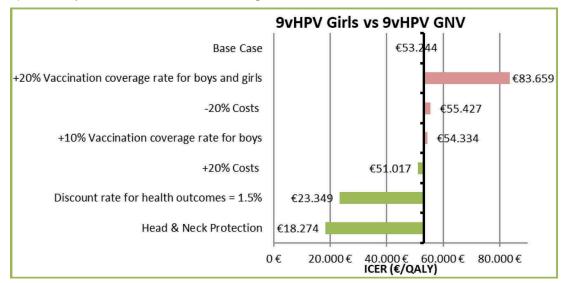


Figure 2. Tornado diagrams showing the ICERs obtained in the sensitivity analysis.

As stated previously, the price considered for this analysis is the list price, which is higher than that included in Spanish tenders, thus making the ICER value even lower than that obtained and confirming that gender-neutral vaccination with 9vHPV is a cost-effective strategy.

When lower discount rates are considered in the sensitivity analysis (1.5%), the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio of gender-neutral vaccination decreases substantially, and gender-neutral vaccination strategies based on 9vHPV would be cost-effective. Recently, the United Kingdom Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) highlighted that a discount rate of 1.5% can be considered when the impact of a lifesaving intervention is sustained over a period of at least 30 years. Such is the case of HPV, given that HPVrelated cancer can appear several decades after initial infection and more than 30 life years would be lost in some cases.<sup>24</sup>

Our results are in accordance with those of three studies on the cost-effectiveness of 9vHPV in the US. These studies showed that, in gender-neutral vaccination scenarios, 9vHPV was likely to be cost-effective and even cost-saving compared with 4vHPV.<sup>25-27</sup> A later study confirmed the cost-effectiveness of 9vHPV in the United States.<sup>28</sup> In Europe, recent studies in Austria,<sup>29</sup> Germany<sup>30</sup>, Italy<sup>31</sup> and, more recently, in the UK<sup>24</sup>, have also shown the cost-effectiveness of 9vHPV in gender-neutral vaccination scenarios.

Our study is subject to a series of limitations. The model did not consider cross-protection against types not included in the vaccines. Therefore, we may have underestimated the impact of current vaccines, although the evidence suggests that the cross-protection effect is limited.<sup>32</sup> In addition, we did not compare gender-neutral vaccination with 9vHPV vs. gender-neutral vaccination with 4vHPV, because it was expected that 9vHPV would already have replaced 4vHPV by the time gender neutral vaccination is introduced in Spain.

The results of the model could be highly conservative as a consequence of the limited data on sexual behavior in Spain during recent years. As already observed in other countries, it is reasonable to expect that from 2003 until now, a larger number of sexual partners and more flexible patterns of sexual mixing could have increased the risk of HPV infection, leading to a potentially higher impact of HPV vaccines.

This study may also underestimate the societal benefits of HPV vaccination. We did not analyze the effect of cervical lesions on neonatal morbidity and mortality or the impact of conizations.<sup>33</sup> Similarly, we did not consider losses in productivity, although HPV-related lesions impair work productivity and functionality in the workplace.<sup>34</sup> Moreover, in the case of direct medical costs of penile, anal, and head and neck cancers, we only considered hospital costs, as no other information was available.<sup>35,36</sup>

Another important limitation of our study is the underestimation of the additional benefits of vaccination with 9vHPV for prevention of CIN, which is a key aspect of the value of 9vHPV.<sup>3,37</sup> This limitation results from the structure of our model and cannot be improved upon without compromising the calibration of cervical cancer estimates. Therefore, the results can be reasonably considered conservative estimates.

Finally, our model does not allow running a probabilistic sensitivity analysis; so, as the previously published adaptations<sup>29-31</sup>, only deterministic sensitivity analysis was carried out.

# Conclusions

Our study shows the potential cost-effectiveness of vaccination with 9vHPV in Spain. The implementation of vaccination with 9vHPV can provide significant incremental public health benefits and is cost-effective when compared with the current vaccination program with 4vHPV. Moreover, implementation of a gender-neutral vaccination program with 9vHPV could potentially be cost-effective considering head and neck protection or similar discount rates, which are already used in international independent studies. In addition, such a vaccination program could further reduce the burden of HPV-related diseases in both sexes in the Spanish population.

# Methods

## Model description

We used a dynamic HPV disease transmission model based on a deterministic susceptible-infected-recovered-susceptible model originally developed by Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA. This model simulated the natural history of HPV infections and assessed the epidemiologic consequences of administering 4vHPV in the US in terms of cervical diseases and genital warts, as well as the cost-effectiveness. It accounted for the herd protection effect and had a 100-year time horizon.<sup>38</sup> The length of the horizon was chosen because this was consistent with the time frame from which the system approached a steady state and the majority of benefits and costs of vaccination could be realized, as recently recommended by a European Vaccine Economics Community.<sup>39</sup> In 2010, the model was updated to include vaginal, vulvar, anal, head and neck, and penile cancers, as well as recurrent respiratory papillomatosis (RRP).<sup>40</sup> Finally, in 2014 it was extended to evaluate 9vHPV and to include diseases related to HPV types 31/33/45/52/58.41 However, in this model, these additional genotypes were considered responsible only for cervical diseases and anal cancer. The present analysis was carried out as an adaptation of this latest version of the model to the Spanish setting.

The dynamic model structure consisted of three connected modules.

- (1) A demographic module that defined the demographic characteristics of the population being simulated. This was divided into 19 age groups and classified according to sexual activity. Individuals move across successive age groups until death, with an additional age- and stage-dependent death rate for cancer patients.
- (2) An epidemiologic module that simulated HPV transmission and the occurrence of HPV-related diseases. Individuals were categorized according to their status regarding infection, disease, screening, and treatment. This module included:
  - one HPV6-specific model (CIN1, genital warts, and RRP);
  - one HPV11-specific model (genital warts and RRP);

- one model for each HPV16- or HPV18-related disease (CINs, cervical cancer, VINs, vulvar cancer, VaINs, vaginal cancer, anal intraepithelial neoplasias, anal cancer, penile intraepithelial neoplasias, penile cancer, and head and neck cancer);
- two models for the HPV types 31/33/45/52/58 (one for cervical diseases and the other for anal diseases).<sup>29</sup>
- (3) An economic module that estimated costs and quality of life associated with the different vaccination and screening strategies.

The analysis evaluated different strategies (girls-only and gender-neutral vaccination) with 9vHPV compared to the current vaccination strategy with 4vHPV (girls only). All strategies considered a two-dose schedule for girls and boys at 12 years of age. No vaccination of adult men or women was considered.

# Sexual behavior

Data on sexual behavior specific to Spain were collected from the Health and Sexual Habits Survey 2003<sup>43</sup> and complemented with data from the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (NATSAL)-3 study in the UK.<sup>44</sup>

## Screening

The percentage of females undergoing gynecological cancer screening at least once every three years was 72.7% according to the European Health Survey in Spain (EESE).<sup>45</sup> The percentage of women undergoing clinical follow-up after an abnormal Papanicolau test (Pap test or Pap smear) result was estimated at 90.8% based on previous studies,<sup>46,47</sup> as no Spanish source was found. Since vulvar and vaginal cancer are not screened for in Spain, the percentage of females receiving regular vaginal cancer screening was 0%.

In terms of diagnostic performance, the sensitivity and specificity of colposcopy were 96% and 48% respectively, whereas the specificity of the Pap test was 94%.<sup>40</sup>

# Input parameters

## **Demographics**

All demographic data were retrieved from the Spanish National Statistics Institute (INE).<sup>41</sup> According to this source, the total population in Spain in January 2018 was estimated to be 46,659,302 people.<sup>42</sup>

## Natural history of the disease

Parameters related to the natural history of the disease, such as probability of transmitting genital HPV infection, rate of recurrence of treated CINs, and cancer progression rate, were taken into account (See Table A1). It was assumed that the

Table 4. Vaccine efficacy assumptions (International).

Vaccine assumptions	HPV16	HPV18	HPV TYPES 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58***
Cervical cancer			
Vaccine efficacy for preventing cervical infections:			
- Male*	0.411	0.621	0.411
- Female**	0.760	0.963	0.760
Degree of protection of the vaccine against cervical HPV types 16/18 infections becoming persistent	0.988	0.984	0.988
Degree of protection of the vaccine against HPV types 16/18 -related CIN	0.979	1	0.979
Vaginal and vulvar cancers			
Vaccine efficacy for preventing vaginal/vulvar infections:			
- Male*	0.411	0.621	
- Female**	0.76	0.963	
Degree of protection of the vaccine against vaginal/vulvar HPV types 16/18 infections becoming persistent	0.988	0.984	
Degree of protection of the vaccine against HPV types 16/18-related VaIN/VIN	1	1	
Anal, penile and H&N cancers	1	1	
Vaccine efficacy for preventing anal/penile***/H&N infections			
· Male*	0.411	0.621	0.621
- Female	0.760	0.963	0.963
Degree of protection of the vaccine against anal/penile/H&N infections becoming persistent	0.700	0.205	0.903
- Gale - Processor of the vacant against analyperine risk incension accounty personant. Male*	0.787	0.960	0.960
Female	0.988	0.984	0.984
Degree of protection of the vaccine against -related AIN/PIN/H&N neoplasia	0	0	
Vaccine assumptions	HPV6	HPV11	
Vaccine efficacy against HPV infection			
- Males	0.490	0.570	
- Females	0.761	0.761	
Degree of protection of the vaccine against HPV-related genital warts			
- Males	0.843	0.909	
- Females	0.989	1	
Degree of protection of the vaccine against HPV-related CIN1	1	1	

\*Preventing male genital infections through male vaccination is assumed to prevent transmission of genital infections to females.

\*\*Preventing female genital infections through vaccination is assumed to prevent transmission of genital infections to males.

\*\*\*Values are not from the primary source; we assumed that efficacy was the same as the quadrivalent vaccine on HPV types 16/18.

AIN: anal intraepithelial neoplasia; CIN: cervical intraepithelial neoplasia; H&N: head and neck; HPV: Human Papillomavirus; PIN, penile intraepithelial neoplasia; VaIN: vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia; VIN: vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia.

Females, Elbasha et al.  $(2010)^{40}$  and Joura et al.  $(2007)^{53}$ . Males, Giuliano et al.  $(2011)^{55}$ .

Sources:

Table 5.	Costs of	<sup>f</sup> diaanosina	and treating	diseases	caused by	HPV infection.

Parameter	Sex	Original values	Inflated values (2017 € value)	Source
Costs per episode of care				
CIN1	Female	€981	€1,090	Castellsague et al. (2009), <sup>60</sup> Diaz et al. (2010), <sup>59</sup>
CIN2	Female	€1,434	€1,593	Morano et al. (2012) <sup>61</sup>
CIN3, CIS	Female	€1,739	€1,929	
Cervical cancer, local disease*	Female	€9,156	€9,428	Georgalis et al. (2016) <sup>62</sup>
Cervical cancer, regional disease*	Female	€23,212	€23,902	-
Cervical cancer, distant disease*	Female	€34,044	€35,057	
ValN1	Female	€981	€1,061	Assumption**
VaIN2	Female	€2,868	€3,186	
VaIN3	Female	€3,478	€3,856	
Vaginal cancer	Female	€10,235	€11,398	Cortes et al. (2012) <sup>63</sup>
Vulvar cancer	Female	€12,470	€13,887	Cortes et al. (2012) <sup>63</sup>
Penile cancer	Male	€6,382	€7,082	Gil-Prieto et al. (2012) <sup>35</sup> ***
Anal cancer	Male	€6,692	€7,626	Gil-Prieto et al. (2012) <sup>35</sup> ***
Anal cancer	Female	€6,968	€7,941	
Head and neck cancer****	Male	€7,216	€8,007	Gil-Prieto et al. (2012) <sup>36</sup> ***
Head and neck cancer****	Female	€7,425	€8,239	
Genital warts	Male	€1,056	€1,122	Castellsague et al. (2009) <sup>64</sup>
Genital warts	Female	€833	€885	
RRP	Male; female	€24,492	€24,492	Hughes et al. (2011) <sup>65</sup>
Parameter	Value (2017 €)		Source	

Screening (cytology) and office visit<br/>Colposcopy€88<br/>€29Trapero-Bertran et al. (2017)<sup>66</sup><br/>Oblikue Rate Andalusia (2017)<sup>67</sup><br/>Oblikue Rate Basque Country (2017)<sup>68</sup>Biopsy€90Oblikue Rate Basque Country (2017)<sup>68</sup>

\*Disease stages can be related to the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) classification system as follows: "Local disease" corresponds to stages II, i.e. localized primary tumor and I; "Regional disease" corresponds to stage III, i.e. metastasis to regional lymph nodes; "Distant disease" corresponds to stage IV, i.e. distant metastatic disease.<sup>69</sup>

\*\*In the absence of cost data for VaIN, the cost of VaIN1 was assumed to be identical to that of CIN1, and based on cost estimates from Bergeron et al. (2006), a French study, those of VaIN2/3 were assumed to be twice as expensive as their CIN counterparts.<sup>46</sup>

\*\*\*Costs of penile, anal, and head and neck cancers correspond only to hospital costs because they were obtained from retrospective studies based on a Spanish database of hospital discharges.<sup>35,36</sup>

\*\*\*\*Used only in the sensitivity analysis.

CIN, cervical intraepithelial neoplasia; CIS, carcinoma in situ; HPV, human papillomavirus; RRP, recurrent respiratory papillomatosis; VaIN, vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia; VIN, vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia.

progression from infection to disease follows a natural history structure similar to that of the initial US model.<sup>40</sup>

#### Treatment patterns

Age-specific hysterectomy rates were retrieved from a Spanish study.<sup>48</sup> The parameters related to the percentage of treated CIN, VaIN, VIN, and carcinoma in situ (CIS) were estimated through a calibration process, as was the percentage of females with cancer who seek treatment after recognizing their symptoms.

#### Mortality

Survival data from the European Cancer Registry Based Study on Survival and Care of Cancer Patients 5 (EUROCARE-5) was used to estimate the mortality associated with HPVrelated cancers.<sup>49</sup> Since specific Spanish survival data by age group and cancer stage were not available, data from Cancer Research UK were used<sup>50</sup> (See Table A2). The correspondence between stages was based on expert opinion.

## Vaccine properties

The prophylactic efficacy of the vaccine or the degree of protection conferred by the vaccine was retrieved from clinical trials<sup>11,12,51-54</sup> (Table 4). We assumed that the efficacy of the vaccine against HPV types 16/18 was the same for all three vaccines, that 2vHPV was not efficacious against infections caused by HPV types 6/11, and that 2vHPV and 4vHPV was not efficacious against infections caused by HPV types 31/33/45/52/58. In the base case, lifelong

duration of protection was assumed, as was the need to administer two doses of the vaccine to consider efficacy complete, as previously reported.<sup>29-31</sup>

## Vaccination strategy

The current HPV vaccination program in Spain targets mainly girls in their 12th year of life.<sup>16</sup>

Consequently, we chose 11–12 years as the only age group to receive the vaccine. In accordance with the latest vaccination coverage report published by the Spanish Ministry of Health,<sup>56</sup> a vaccination coverage rate (VCR) of 77.8% was set for this age group in girls. There were no data on VCR for boys aged between 11 and 12. Based on expert assumptions, we assumed that the VCR for boys would be 55% in a gender neutral vaccination program setting. Moreover, as the report of the Spanish Ministry of Health only includes one- and three-dose compliance rates, we projected a two-dose compliance rate of 89.5% by assuming a linear relationship between the two doses.

# Costs and discounting

Costs were retrieved from the literature and inflated to 2017 euro values using the Spanish Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) for Health.<sup>57</sup> A discount rate of 3% was considered for costs and for health outcomes.

For vaccines, official list prices per dose for 2vHPV and 4vHPV were used:  $\notin$ 78.03 for 2vHPV,  $\notin$ 104.00 for 4vHPV, and  $\notin$ 120.00 for 9vHPV.<sup>58</sup> In all cases, an administration

charge of  $\notin$ 5.38 per dose was applied, as reported in previous publications.<sup>59</sup>

Costs per episode of care of HPV-related diseases are provided by Spanish studies,<sup>35,36,59-64</sup> with the exception of costs per episode of RRP, where we used the UK estimate<sup>65</sup> (Table 5). Costs of screening and diagnostic tests were also provided by Spanish sources.<sup>59,60,66-68</sup>

All analyses were performed from the Spanish payer's perspective.

## Health-related quality of life

Health utility values for cancer patients were derived from several sources, as no Spanish specific utilities for health states were found (Table A3-A5).<sup>70</sup> In the absence of UK-specific stage-stratified data in the population with HPV-related disease, a combination of best available UK and US data were used to calculate the required utilities.<sup>71-73</sup>

## Model calibration and validation

The model was calibrated according to Spanish data on incidence and mortality rates and the proportions of diseases attributable to HPV infection (Table 6), as well as according to the adjusted HPV-related incidence and mortality rates for cancers and incidence rates for genital warts (see Table A6 and A7).

The calibration process involved iterative modification of the model inputs to obtain model outcomes closer to the validation targets. We prioritized the targets with the greatest impact on overall cost-effectiveness and those with the highest-quality data. We did not modify the natural history parameters, because they were already extensively calibrated in the original model.<sup>40</sup> Additionally, we adjusted local variables such as mortality rates and the proportion of individuals seeking treatment in order to refine the results to match each target (see Table A7).

Table 6. Model calibration.\*

	Overall incidence	Overall incidence (per 100,000)			
	Female		Male		
Overall incidence of cancers a	Ind genital warts				
CIN1	265.46		-		
CIN2/3	137.36		-		
Cervical cancer	8.6		-		
Vaginal cancer	0.3		-		
Vulvar cancer	1.12		-		
Anal cancer	0.34		0.6		
Oral cavity cancer	2.3		7.4		
Oropharyngeal cancer	0.4		3.9		
Laryngeal cancer	0.7		7.8		
Head and neck cancer**	6.30		23.10		
Penile cancer	-		1.09		
Genital warts	99.59		136.58		
	Overall mortality	y (per 100,000)			
	Female		Male		
Overall mortality by cancers					
Cervical cancer	1.97		-		
Vaginal cancer	0.1		-		
Vulvar cancer	0.64		-		
Anal cancer	0.1		0.19		
Oral cavity cancer	1.0		2.98		
Oropharyngeal cancer	0.16		0.97		
Laryngeal cancer	0.23		4.3		
Head and neck cancer	0.37		3.04		
Penile cancer	-		0.36		
		Genotypes included in 4vHPV		Genotypes inclu	uded in 9vHPV
	Prevalence (% HPV+ cancers)	Female	Male	Female	Male
Proportion of cancers and dis	eases related to HPV, to HPV types 6/11/	16/18, and to HPV	types 6/11/16/18/3	1/33/45/52/58 by v	accine
	100%	24.0%	-	48.5%	-
CIN2/3	100%	45.5%	-	82.3%	-
Cervical cancer	100%	72.8%	-	89.0%	-
Vaginal cancer	71.1%	71.3%	-	85.2%	-
Vulvar cancer	19.3%	73.5%	-	84.0%	-
Anal cancer	87.6%	87.1%	87.1%	89.8%	89.8%
Oral cavity cancer	16.0%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Oropharyngeal cancer	28.2%	89.5%	89.5%	89.5%	89.5%

86.2%

90.0%

86.2%

73.6%

90.0%

86.2%

90.0%

86.2%

73.6%

90.0%

\*Calibration was carried out in the population aged 15 to 85 years.

CIN, cervical intraepithelial neoplasia; HPV, human papillomavirus.

Laryngeal cancer Penile cancer

Genital warts

Cervical disease, Torné Bladé et al. (2014).<sup>19</sup>

Vaginal, vulvar, anal, cancer, H&N, and penile cancers, ICO (2016).<sup>23</sup>

Genital warts, Castellsagué et al. (2009).<sup>64</sup>

Oral, oropharyngeal, and laryngeal cancers, IARC (2012).74

Overall mortality by cancers, INE.75

Proportion of cancers and diseases related to HPV: Hartwig et al. (2012)<sup>76</sup> and Hartwig et al. (2015).<sup>3</sup>

21.3%

46.7%

100%

<sup>\*\*</sup>Used only in the sensitivity analysis.

Sources:

# **Model analysis**

We used the set of inputs described above to estimate the total number of events, incidence, and mortality rates of HPVrelated cervical cancer, CIN, anal cancer, and genital warts. We also estimated QALYs per person over a time horizon of 100 years. We then calculated the ICERs as the quotient of incremental costs divided by incremental QALYs. Two base case scenarios were defined, thus reflecting the spectrum of current and potential practice:

- 9vHPV girls-only vaccination vs. 4vHPV girls-only vaccination
- 9vHPV gender-neutral vaccination vs. 4vHPV girls-only vaccination

In addition, given that 9vHPV is already included in some regional vaccination calendars in Spain, a third scenario comparing 9vHPV girls-only vaccination with 9vHPV genderneutral vaccination was also tested. Scenarios with 2vHPV were also assessed, and further details are provided in Tables B1 and B2.

Finally, a deterministic sensitivity analysis was performed to assess the robustness of the results. The following key parameters were tested: VCR, time horizon, discount rates, and the inclusion of head and neck cancer, penile cancer, and RRP. The inclusion of those parameters was based on the previously published adaptations of the model<sup>29-31</sup>. Price was not considered a parameter in our deterministic sensitivity analysis as both vaccines (9vHPV and 4vHPV) are already in the market in Spain and have official list prices.

## Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

## **Consent for publication**

Not applicable.

# Availability of data and material

All study data are presented either in the article or in the additional files.

# **Competing interests**

Jesús de la Fuente received honoraria for acting as an advisor and/or speaker, as well as travel support for attending at events or meetings, from Sanofi Pasteur MSD, and MSD. Juan J. Hernández Aguado received honoraria for acting as an advisor and/or speaker, as well as travel support for attending at events or meetings, from Sanofi Pasteur MSD, MSD, Bial, Pfizer, GSK, and Roche Diagnostics. Paula Ramirez, Sergio Cedillo, Noelia López, and María San Martín are employees of MSD Spain

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# **Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest**

No potential conflict of interest were disclosed.

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# **Authors' contributions**

All authors contributed equally to the bibliographic research and drafting and review of the manuscript.

## Abbreviations

AIN	Anal Intraepithelial Neoplasia
CHMP	Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use
CIN	Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia
CIS	Carcinoma in Situ
EESE	European Health Survey in Spain
EMA	European Medicine Agency
EUROCARE	European Cancer Registry Based Study on Survival and
	Care of Cancer Patients
FIGO	International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics
HICP	Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
ICER	Incremental Cost-Effectiveness Ratio
INE	Spanish National Statistics Institute
JCVI	Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation
NATSAL	National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles
PIN	Penile Intraepithelial Neoplasia
QALY	Quality-Adjusted Life Year
RRP	Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
ValN	Vaginal Intraepithelial Neoplasia
VCR	Vaccination Coverage Rate
VIN	Vulvar Intraepithelial Neoplasia

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