ABSTRACTS

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[O029] HIGH PREVALENCE OF HIGH-RISK HPV INFECTION IN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FROM THE NORTHEAST REGION OF PORTUGAL USING SELF-SAMPLING

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Aim: Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection worldwide. Our goal was to characterize the prevalence of High-Risk HPV genotypes in university students at the Northeast region of Portugal using self-collection samples.

Method: A total of 81 university students were given self-sampling systems for cervical-vaginal samples collection. High-Risk HPV genotyping was performed using platform*.

Results: The median age of women was 21.0 years (range 18-30) and mean age of first sexual intercourse was 17±1.9 years. High-Risk HPVs were detected in 31 women (38.3%), with single and multiple infections to be responsible for 16.0% and 22.3%, respectively. Overall, HPV-68 (9.9%) was the most frequent genotype, followed by HPV-31, -51, -58, -59 and -66 each with 7.4%. We also observed that three women had HPV-16 and one HPV-18. We observed that women reporting more than two lifetime sexual partners, first sexual intercourse under 17 years old, non-Portuguese nationality (mainly African origin) and non-vaccinated status were associated with higher prevalence of High-Risk HPVs (p=0.001, p= 0.014, p=0.005 and p=0.016, respectively).

Conclusions: Our study revealed that 1) self-collecting samples are useful for the detection of High-Risk HPVs; 2) the prevalence of High-Risk HPV infection in university students in the Northeast region of Portugal is high, particularly in those with over 21 years of age of non-Portuguese nationality. These results highlight the importance of continuing to develop prevention strategies and that self-collected samples may be a useful sample in the context of HPV-detection

* the AnyplexTM II HPV HR Detection (Seegene®)