



# Removing Global Barriers to Cervical Cancer Prevention and Moving Towards Elimination

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## Commentary

Cervical cancer is a leading cause of cancer death among women worldwide. In 2012, an estimated 528,000 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer, and 266,000 women died from the disease. The majority of these deaths occurred in low-income and middle-income countries, where the burden of cervical cancer is highest. In these countries, barriers to cervical cancer prevention and early diagnosis are significant, including limited access to screening services, lack of awareness, and cultural barriers. However, recent advances in cervical cancer prevention, including the development of new vaccines and screening methods, offer promising opportunities to reduce the global burden of this disease. This commentary discusses the current state of cervical cancer prevention and early diagnosis, and provides recommendations for how to overcome global barriers to these services and move towards elimination.

Cervical cancer is a preventable disease, and its elimination is a realistic goal. The World Health Organization (WHO) has set a target of eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem by 2030. This target is based on the WHO Global Action Plan for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer, which was adopted in 2014. The plan outlines a strategy for the elimination of cervical cancer, which includes increasing the coverage of cervical cancer screening and vaccination, and improving the quality of care for women with cervical cancer. The WHO estimates that if these targets are met, the global burden of cervical cancer will be reduced by 95% by 2030.

1. WHO (2014) Global Action Plan for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer. Geneva: World Health Organization. 1:112.
2. WHO (2016) Cervical Cancer: A Global Action Plan. Geneva: World Health Organization. 1:111.
3. WHO (2020) Cervical Cancer: A Global Action Plan. Geneva: World Health Organization. 1:111.
4. WHO (2018) Cervical Cancer: A Global Action Plan. Geneva: World Health Organization. 1:111.