

Increasing risk of uterine cervical cancer among young Japanese women: Comparison of incidence trends in Japan, South Korea and Japanese-Americans between 1985 and 2012

It is known that cervical cancer (at the uterus entrance) incidence (rate of cancer diagnosis) has increased in Japan since the late 1990s, despite a decreasing trend in most developed countries. In this study, RERF compared the trends in cervical cancer incidence from 1985 to 2012 for Japanese, South Korean, and Japanese-American women by age, period, and cohort.

This study showed that the incidence of cervical cancer among Japanese women overall was higher than the incidence in Japanese-American or Korean women. That increase can be attributed to the increase in cervical cancer risk (possibility of contracting cancer) among young Japanese women. However, this same trend in risk was not evident in Japanese-American or Korean women. The higher risk in Japan could be due mainly to the increasing prevalence of human papilloma virus (HPV)* infection among young women.

* Human papilloma virus (HPV):

This common virus is experienced at least once in the lifetime of many women with sexual experience. The virus causes numerous diseases such as cervical, anal, and vaginal cancers, but infection with the virus can be prevented by vaccination. Cervical cancer can be detected fairly early with cervical cancer screening.

RERF's objective with this brief outline is to succinctly explain our research for the lay public. Much of the technical content of the original paper has been omitted. For further details about the study, please refer to the full paper published by the journal.