

"Si, es responsabilidad de la mamá": Communication Narratives on Cervical Cancer Prevention Amongst Latina Mothers with Daughters

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INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- Latinas are 40% more likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer and 30% more likely to die from it compared to non-Latina whites
- Cervical cancer rates can be offset by increased screening and HPV vaccination

PURPOSE

- To examine the perspective of Spanish-speaking Latina mothers, the relationship and communication with their daughters about cervical cancer, and its prevention

DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 1

Participant Demographics

	Latina Mothers w/ Daughters 11+ years old	
	n	(%)
Age (years)		
45 - 54	7	(58.33)
55 - 64	5	(41.67)
Education Level		
Primary (1st-6th grade)	5	(41.99)
Secondary (7th-9th grade)	3	(24.99)
Less than High School graduate	1	(8.33)
High School Graduate	3	(25)
Foreign Born	12	(100)
Health Insurance	9	(75)
Last Doctor Visit		
Within Past Year	11	(91.67)
Within Past 2 Years	1	(8.33)
Occupation		
Housewife	9	(83.33)
Other	3	(16.67)

METHODS

- 12 over the phone semi-structured interviews with Latina mothers recruited mostly from a larger NIH-funded project, Mi Propio Camino
- Questions included knowledge about cervical cancer prevention, to understanding the relationship with their daughters
- Data analysis was conducted through qualitative software program Dedoose, using both deductive and inductive coding

"It was a little bothersome the first time, but because they introduce something, an apparatus. But that was the first time, then when you go the next time, well then it is then you know a little more about how is the exam, and its like literally you go a little more mentally prepared. It doesn't feel to you as bad because you already know what you go for." - DG12

"Well, many times the truth scares me, it's scary to go in for checkups, it's scary to have a pap smear or mammogram done or sometimes because the person doesn't have insurance. Understand? That's why we can't go to the doctor because of that" - LC11

Despite Latina mothers' hardships, with **more access to better health knowledge** they are **willing to learn and grow** for the **betterment of their families**

"The truth is, I'm going to be honest, this is almost always my case. Nobody really said "look at this and this". And we have grown up with a family who does explain to us as well. It isn't until you have kids that you realize you have to go get yourself checked, to see that you're good"- ZM09

"Yes, it is the responsibility, of the mother if she has the correct information, and if she understand that information. I think so, because you have to be well informed. What is this, and what is this for? And like that provide that information to your daughter. A way that they understand it" - IR13

"I have a very nice relationship with her and we share everything. She shares with me her things and I share mine with her. We do have a nice relationship between us. Then she talks to me about things other people talk to her, "well, I have this, I have that other thing" I also share things with her"- BA02

See the full poster



RESULTS

Table 2. Recurrent Thematic Codes (N=12)

Code	Definition	Example (# of participants)
Pap smear experience + reason for getting a pap smear	Mothers describe what feelings they recall experiencing with Pap smears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felt discomfort (6) Participants felt that it was good to know everything was fine (4) Felt some type of embarrassment when they had a Pap smear (5) Expressed that after their first Pap smear experience, they would go mentally prepared. (2) Felt forced to have the pap smear by their doctor (1)
Barriers to accessing care	Participants express what they believe are barriers that Latinos face when it comes to accessing medical care. It also includes reasons why women cannot go or decide not to see a doctor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed that there is an embarrassment to go to the doctor for medical care (5) Explained one of the barriers was a lack of resources or no health insurance (5) Barriers to accessing care is having a busy work schedule (2)
Health knowledge	Mother's knowledge of general health includes if they know what cancer in general is, what cervical cancer is, how can you prevent it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knew what cancer was, but could not specify what cervical cancer was (12) Expressed not having the knowledge necessary but believed someone else should educate them (clinicians, or anyone else who has a lot of knowledge) (3)
Mothers' role in informing daughters about cervical cancer prevention	Mothers believe it is their responsibility to inform their daughters about cervical cancer and prevention methods. This reflects how the mothers engage in their daughters' health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Believed that it is the mother's responsibility to inform daughters about cervical cancer (11) Expressed that a mother needs to know the information she is sharing (1) Expressed that it is the responsibility of both the mother and daughter (1)
Mother-daughter relationship & communication	This includes information on whether the mother believes they have a positive or non-positive relationship with their daughter. More information on the relationship is obtained through the types of conversations that happen between them and if there are any topics that were avoided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed positive, healthy conversations with their daughters (11) Mothers state that there are no topics avoided when communicating with their daughters (11) Conversations entailed general health, just as checkups and general hygiene (7) Conversations entailed women's health, discussion on sexual health, and exams (3)

DISCUSSION

- Uncommon topics that arose included: mother's interest in their daughters sharing health knowledge with their peers, and wariness of discussion of sexual relationships
- Participants showed empowerment to educate themselves further on what they previously lacked knowledge on

LIMITATIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- All participants have access to primary care. Due to this, their views and experiences cannot represent the larger scale Latine population
- It is suggested to explore the communication among Latina siblings or peers, as an avenue to spread information on cervical cancer & prevention & its potential motivation to early detection & health screenings.