

## **Cervical Cancer is More Aggressive when Human Papilloma Virus is Not Detected**

*HPV-negative tumours are rare but have a worse prognosis*

*Barcelona, April 17, 2019-* Cervical cancer negative for the human papilloma virus (HPV) is rare but more aggressive: it is more frequently diagnosed at advanced stages, with more metastasis and reduced survival. These are the conclusions of a study co-led by ISGlobal, an institution supported by “la Caixa”, the Hospital Clinic and the University of Barcelona.

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women worldwide and a leading cause of morbidity and mortality. Infection by HPV (particularly certain genotypes) is the main causal agent of this tumour. However, a small percentage of cases are negative for HPV. It is not clear, however, whether these tumours represent a distinct cancer subtype, with different clinical and prognostic characteristics.

In this study, the team led by ISGlobal researcher and pathologist Jaume Ordi, analysed tumours from 214 women diagnosed with cervical cancer and admitted to the Hospital Clinic in Barcelona between 2012 and 2015, and followed-up for five years. Using a highly sensitive molecular amplification test, they found that 10% of tumours analysed were negative for VPH DNA. Women with this type of tumour were diagnosed at more advanced stages of the disease, had a higher rate of lymph node metastasis and their average survival was half that of women with HPV-positive tumours.

“These results confirm previous studies by our group, with smaller samples,” explains Ordi. “The new study confirms that HPV-negative tumours represent a more aggressive type of cancer with worse prognosis, which must be considered for the clinical management of these patients,” he adds.

### **Reference**

Nicolás I, Marimon L, Barnadas E, Saco A, Rodríguez-Carunchio L, Fusté P, Martí C, Rodríguez-Trujillo A, Torne A, Del Pino M, Ordi J. [HPV-negative tumors of the uterine cervix](#). Mod. Pathol. 2019 Mar 25. doi: 10.1038/s41379-019-0249-1.

### **About ISGlobal**

The Barcelona Institute for Global Health, ISGlobal, is the fruit of an innovative alliance between “la Caixa” and academic and government institutions to contribute to the efforts undertaken by the international community to address the challenges in global health. ISGlobal is a consolidated hub of excellence in research that has grown out of work first started in the world of health care by the Hospital Clínic and the Parc de Salut MAR and in the academic sphere by the University of Barcelona and Pompeu Fabra University. The pivotal mechanism of its work model is the transfer of knowledge generated by scientific research to practice, a task undertaken by the institute’s Education and Policy and Global Development departments. ISGlobal a member of the CERCA programme of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

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