

## **Incidence and risk factors for cervical cancer and pre-cancerous lesions in Equatorial Guinea**

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According to the World Health Organization, 34 out of every 100,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 23 out of 100,000 cases are fatal. Routine screen and treat programs can prevent 80% of cervical cancers as it allows for early detection of cervical cancer and pre-cancerous lesions and at earlier stages there are more effective treatment opportunities. The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) has been associated with the risk of cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine, along with screen and treat programs, has proven to reduce incidence of cases. In Equatorial Guinea the Cervical Cancer Screen and Treat (CCST) project, funded by Nobel Energy Inc., aims to provide early routine screening, early diagnosis, and effective treatment of cervical cancer and pre-cancerous lesions to women in areas where diagnosis and treatment is limited. The project was launched in 2016 in the Regional Hospitals in Malabo (Insular Region), and Bata (Continental Region) and has screened about 4,000 women. Routine data from the project provides insight into the background and potential risk factors, as well as symptoms at the time of screening. Descriptive data analysis and linear regression models will provide an overview of the associations between potential risk factors and symptoms and the outcome of the screening test. The data analysis will also allow for insight into the profile of women who participate in the cervical screening program. This study will be valuable to support future Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns, targeted mass screening campaigns and treatment programs which include training of health care workers.