

## **SURVEY OF ATTITUDES TOWARD CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING**

Ito M.  
M.P.H., Ph.D. candidate  
Epidemiology and Preventive Health Sciences Dept.  
Graduate School of Medicine  
The University of Tokyo  
Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan

**Background and objectives:** The number of new cervical cancer cases, including carcinoma *in situ*, and death in Japan is reported to be 17000 and 2500, respectively. However, the actual number is estimated to be over 20000 and 3500, respectively. On the other hand, the coverage of cervical cancer screening remains between 20 and 30 %, even with the presence of introductory vouchers for free screening. The issues are serious, especially in the young generation. Social, psychological, and other factors have been mentioned as barriers to cervical cancer screening in many studies, but there has been limited research presenting such evidence in Japan. We also face the problem of a lack of a national screening registry and quality check surveillance. My current plan is to conduct two surveys of attitudes toward cervical cancer screening in collaboration with the Japan Cancer Society, targeting young Japanese women, to find out what kind of factors affect them adversely.

**Methods:** We plan to do 2 web-based surveys in the summer of 2013. The intended participants in one survey are 1000 young mothers under the mid-20s, and the other one will focus on 500-600 young women in their 20s and 30s, who are employed. Questions will include the following items: whether or not they know about cervical cancer and its screening, whether or not they go to see an obstetrics and gynecology specialist regularly, whether or not they have received cervical cancer screening, the reasons for not having received any, how they feel about cervical cancer screening services, their smoking history, educational background, income, etc. We will also ask them about HPV vaccination and cervical cancer. Because some adverse events related to HPV vaccine, such as chronic pains, have been reported, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare decided to waive the recommendation on HPV vaccination in June 2013.

**Outcomes:** We will report the outcomes of our surveys in a session at EUROGIN WACC 2013.