

Online Table 3. Assessment of the effect of study characteristics on the association between human papillomavirus (HPV) persistence and CIN2-3/HSIL+, stratified by HPV-negative, transient HPV, and mixed HPV referent group.*

Study characteristic	Design	HPV-negative referent						Mixed HPV referent				Transient HPV referent				
		No. studies (homogeneity <i>p</i> value)	Summary effect estimate		Ratio of effect estimates		No. studies (homogeneity <i>p</i> value)	Summary effect estimate		Ratio of effect estimates		No. studies (homogeneity <i>p</i> value)	Summary effect estimate		Ratio of effect estimates	
			Ratio	95% CI [†]	Ratio	95% CI [†]		Ratio	95% CI [†]	Ratio	95% CI [†]		Ratio	95% CI [†]	Ratio	95% CI [†]
Minimum HPV persistence	≤12 months	6 (<0.001) ^a	63.9	7.9, 516.7	1.0		5 (<0.001) ^c	21.5	7.4, 62.1	1.0		8 (0.4) ^e	9.5	5.5-16.4	1.0	
	>12 months	2 (0.96) ^b	223.0	39.0, 1,273.3	3.3	0.13, 84.0	5 (0.02) ^d	50.0	18.7, 134.1	2.4	0.63, 8.9	4 (0.7) ^f	42.9	12.3-149.6	4.3	1.0-18.0
HPV testing interval	≤6 months	3 (0.2) ^g	29.0	7.6, 110.7	1.0		3 (0.003) ^j	18.7	4.5, 77.6	1.0		4 (0.2) ^m	9.4	3.6-24.3	1.0	
	>6-12 months	3 (0.2) ^h	57.7	6.7, 495.9	2.3	0.34, 15.3	3 (0.98) ^k	27.6	13.5, 56.4	2.0	0.53, 7.9	4 (0.4) ⁿ	13.0	4.8-35.0	2.0	0.66-6.0
	>12 months	2 (0.4) ⁱ	667.9	264.1, 1,689.1	31.1	11.0, 87.6	4 (0.3) ^l	63.2	39.1, 102.0	4.2	1.4, 12.8	3 (0.96) ^o	17.9	6.9-46.6	2.8	0.95-8.1
HPV group	Overall HPV	5 (<0.001) ^p	104.2	11.9, 912.1	1.0		3 (0.5) ^s	37.8	24.0, 59.6	1.0		4 (0.9) ^v	13.3	6.2-28.5	1.0	
	Carcinogenic	5 (0.4) ^q	30.6	17.7, 59.2	0.57	0.05, 6.6 [‡]	5 (0.01) ^t	20.3	6.5, 62.9	0.42	0.11, 1.8	8 (0.1) ^w	15.4	6.2-38.2	1.0	0.28-3.9 [‡]
	HPV16/18	2 (0.2) ^r	26.3	11.4, 60.8	0.35	0.02, 7.4 [‡]	3 (0.08) ^u	50.5	17.6, 144.8	1.4	0.37, 5.6	3 (0.1) ^x	15.5	3.0-80.6	1.2	0.22-6.5 [‡]
Type-specific persistence	No	7 (0.02) ^y	102.4	27.0, 388.1	1.0		6 (<0.001) ^{aa}	27.3	9.9, 75.1	1.0		8 (0.7) ^{cc}	16.0	18.4-30.4	1.0	
	Yes	3 (<0.001) ^z	74.0	5.2, 1,061.1	0.77	0.07, 8.9 [‡]	3 (0.08) ^{bb}	50.5	17.6, 144.8	1.9	0.42, 8.3	5 (0.07) ^{dd}	14.9	4.6-48.9	0.66	0.21-2.0 [‡]
HPV detection method	Non-PCR	3 (0.3) ^{ee}	36.5	9.4, 141.3	1.0		3 (0.02) ^{gg}	26.5	2.4, 286.1	1.0		4 (0.5) ⁱⁱ	29.9	9.0-99.4	1.0	
	PCR	6 (<0.001) ^{ff}	99.4	15.2, 652.1	2.4	0.19, 31.5	8 (0.06) ^{hh}	38.5	23.9, 62.2	3.2	0.91, 10.9	9 (0.2) ^{jj}	11.4	6.2-20.9	0.37	0.09-1.6
Outcome diagnosis	Not histology only	4 (<0.001) ^{kk}	108.2	10.6, 1,107.5	1.0		4 (0.6) ^{mm}	35.3	23.2, 53.6	1.0		5 (0.6) ^{oo}	15.7	7.8-31.8	1.0	
	Histology only [§]	5 (0.5) ^{ll}	49.4	17.0, 143.6	0.51	0.05, 5.4	7 (<0.001) ⁿⁿ	32.8	10.2, 105.3	0.94	0.25, 3.5	9 (0.06) ^{pp}	18.7	7.2-48.5	0.95	0.27-3.4 [‡]
Baseline cervical status	Normal/lesions	2 (0.3) ^{qq}	82.7	9.9, 693.0	1.0		4 (0.01) ^{tt}	55.3	17.5, 174.3	1.0		3 (0.1) ^{ww}	10.8	2.3-51.0	1.0	
	Normal/ASCUS	2 (0.9) ^{rr}	12.7	3.3, 49.3	0.16	0.004, 6.2	1 (NA) ^{uu}	NA [¶]	NA [¶]			2 (0.98) ^{xx}	14.3	3.1-65.4	2.4	0.48-11.8
	Normal	5 (<0.001) ^{ss}	141.0	19.8, 1,004.7	1.7	0.08, 36.5	5 (0.8) ^{vv}	35.4	23.5, 53.3	0.64	0.24, 1.7	8 (0.6) ^{yy}	18.4	9.8-37.7	3.1	1.4-6.9
Mean/median age of study population	≤35 years	4 (<0.001) ^{zz}	57.7	5.9, 563.9	1.0		4 (0.4) ^{bbb}	32.5	21.5, 49.1	1.0		4 (0.2) ^{ddd}	9.6	4.4-21.7	1.0	
	>35 years	4 (0.4) ^{aaa}	76.6	19.1, 308.2	1.1	0.08, 16.0	5 (0.03) ^{ccc}	26.4	6.0, 116.8	0.58	0.16, 2.1	6 (0.6) ^{eee}	20.9	7.3-59.5	2.3	0.61-8.6

* CIN2-3/HSIL+ = high-grade cervical intraepithelial neoplasia, high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions, and invasive cancer.

[†] CI = confidence interval.

[‡] At least one study contributed effect estimates to more than one category. Thus, observations are not independent and confidence intervals may be inaccurate.

[§] One study included one case (out of 9) that had no data on histology available.(54)

[¶] NA = not applicable

^a (37, 51, 53, 54, 62, 67), ^b (16, 102), ^c (37, 51, 53-55), ^d (14, 16, 27, 56, 102), ^e (11, 32, 37, 51-54, 75), ^f (16, 29, 39, 102), ^g (62, 67, 102), ^h (51, 53, 54), ⁱ (16, 37), ^j (27, 55, 102), ^k (51, 53, 54), ^l (14, 16, 37, 56), ^m (11, 52, 75, 102), ⁿ (32, 51, 53, 54), ^o (16, 37, 39), ^p (16, 37, 51, 62, 67), ^q (37, 53, 54, 62, 102), ^r (30, 62), ^s (16, 37, 51), ^t (27, 53-55, 102), ^u (14, 31, 56), ^v (16, 37, 38, 51), ^w (11, 32, 39, 52-54, 60, 102), ^x (29, 38, 75), ^y (16, 37, 51, 54, 62, 67, 102), ^z (30, 37, 62), ^{aa} (16, 37, 51, 54, 55, 102), ^{bb} (14, 31, 56), ^{cc} (11, 16, 32, 37, 38, 51, 54, 102), ^{dd} (29, 39, 52, 60, 75), ^{ee} (54, 67, 102), ^{ff} (16, 30, 37, 51, 53, 62), ^{gg} (54, 55, 102), ^{hh} (14, 16, 27, 31, 37, 51, 53, 56), ⁱⁱ (11, 32, 54, 102), ^{jj} (16, 29, 37, 39, 51-53, 60, 75), ^{kk} (30, 37, 51, 62), ^{ll} (16, 53, 54, 67, 102), ^{mm} (31, 37, 51, 56), ⁿⁿ (14, 16, 27, 53-55, 102), ^{oo} (11, 32, 37, 39, 51), ^{pp} (16, 29, 32, 52-54, 60, 75, 102), ^{qq} (53, 102), ^{rr} (54, 62), ^{ss} (16, 30, 37, 51, 67), ^{tt} (14, 27, 53, 102), ^{uu} (54), ^{vv} (16, 31, 37, 51, 54, 56), ^{ww} (52, 53, 102), ^{xx} (11, 54), ^{yy} (16, 29, 32, 37, 39, 51, 60, 75), ^{zz} (30, 37, 62, 67), ^{aaa} (16, 53, 54, 102), ^{bbb} (27, 31, 37, 56), ^{ccc} (16, 53-55, 102), ^{ddd} (11, 37, 39, 52), ^{eee} (16, 32, 53, 54, 75, 102)