

14.11.2013



Dear Japanese colleagues,

The introduction of HPV vaccines in 2006/2007 is certainly one of the greatest achievements of preventive medicine reducing the world-wide morbidity and mortality of HPV-related diseases. The two vaccines have demonstrated excellent efficacy in clinical trials which is confirmed by effectiveness data in population-based surveillance studies. The safety data captured in worldwide surveillance have not revealed any safety issue or danger signals which is confirmed by WHO and various national public health authorities. Personally, I deeply regret the decision of the Japanese Government to halt the promotion of HPV vaccination due to safety concerns which is not backed by scientific data. There is no causal link between the very rare and sporadic cases of chronic pain syndrome reported in Japan, but there is a proven causality between HPV infection and cervical cancer which can be prevented by HPV vaccination.

Domo arrigato

Prof. Dr. med. Tino F. Schwarz