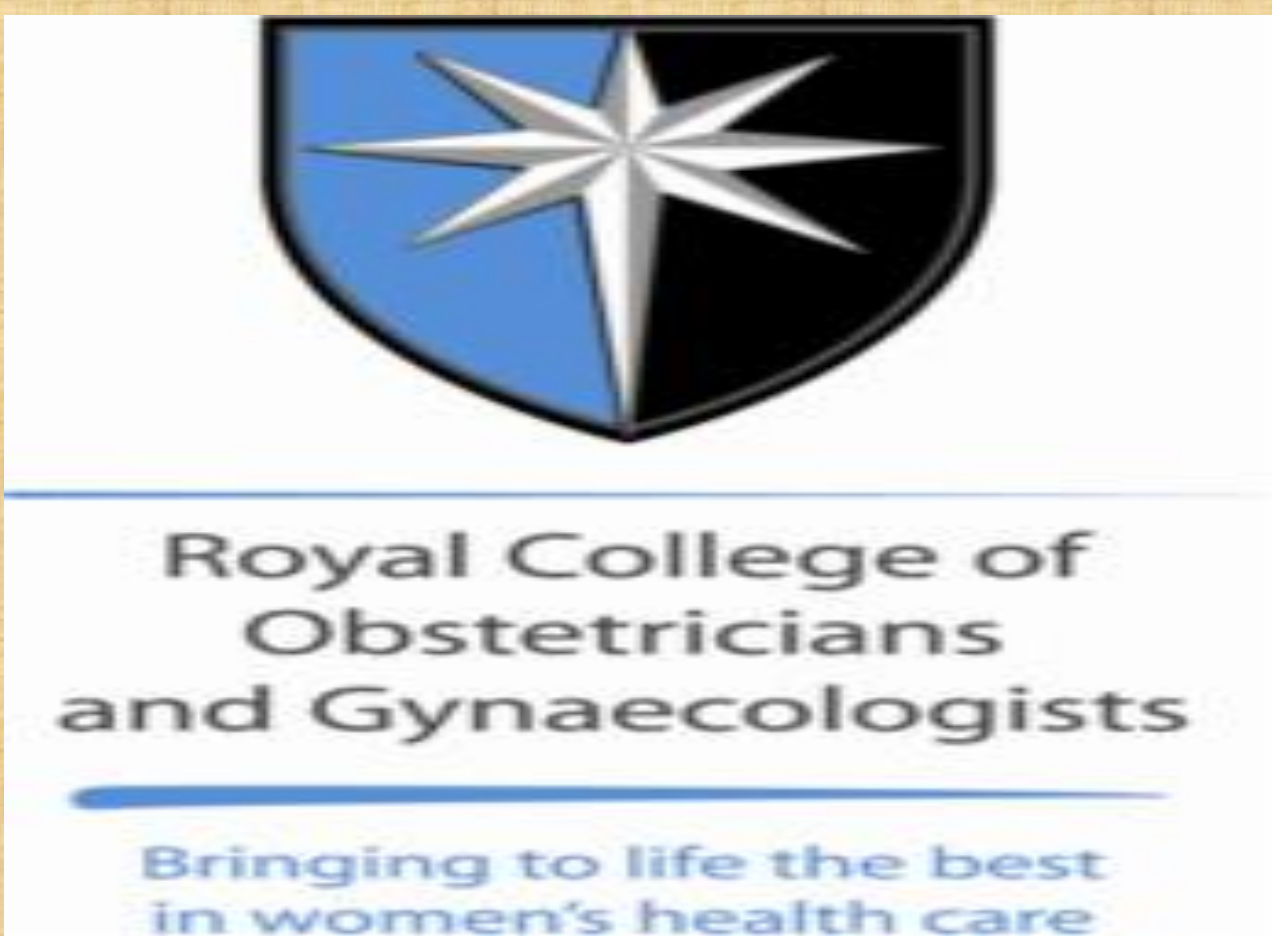
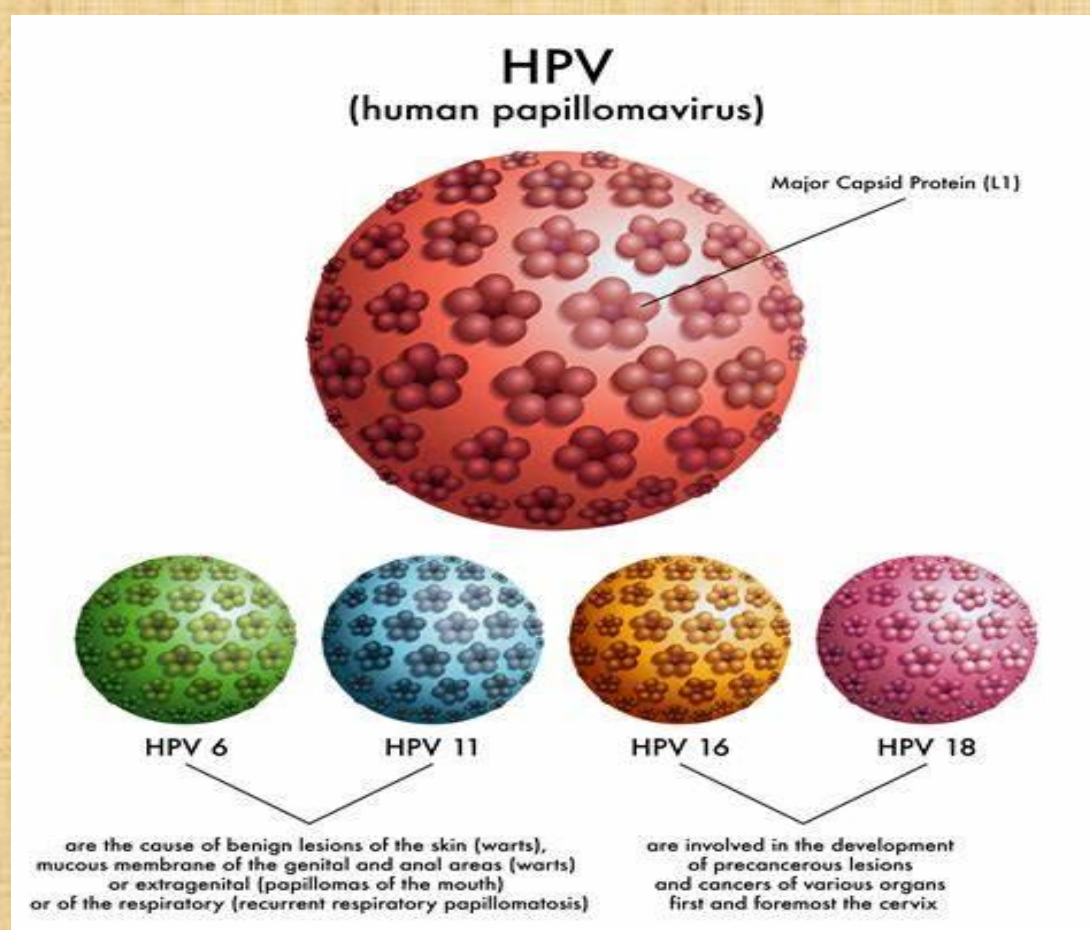




Bridging the Treatment Gap in High-Risk HPV: Potential of AHCC and Papilocare®

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Background: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a widespread sexually transmitted infection with more than 200 subtypes and is a primary cause of genital warts and cervical cancer. HPV affects over 85% of women globally. Although most infections clear on their own, persistent cases may develop into cervical cancer. There is no standard treatment for the virus itself, and patient care centres on monitoring. This passive "watch and wait" method can be stressful for women, with no direct intervention available. Immunomodulators such as **Active Hexose Correlated Compound** (AHCC) from shiitake mushroom as a tablet and **Papilocare®**, a gel from *Coriolus versicolor* (Turkey Tail mushroom), are showing promising results in eliminating persistent infections. This review explores recent evidence supporting their use.

Methodology: A systematic literature search was performed using major scientific databases, including PubMed and the Cochrane Library. Keywords such as “AHCC,” “Turkey tail mushroom,” “HPV clearance,” “immune response,” and “HPV infection” were used to identify relevant studies. Inclusion criteria focused on research investigating the immunomodulatory effects of natural compounds on HPV infection and clearance.

References: 1. Smith JA et al. Front Oncol. 2022;12:881902. doi:10.3389/fonc.2022.881902
2. Serrano L et al. J Low Genit Tract Dis. 2021;25(2):130–136. doi:10.1097/LGT.0000000000000596
3. Cortés Bordoy J et al. Cancers (Basel). 2023;15(15):3863. doi:10.3390/cancers15153863
4. Criscuolo AA et al. Efficacy of *Coriolus versicolor*-based vaginal gel in high-risk HPV infection. Adv Ther. 2021;38(2):1202–11.

Results: **AHCC:** Smith et al. conducted **preclinical studies** using in vitro cervical cancer cell lines and in vivo mouse models, demonstrating effective HPV elimination, with a proposed mechanism involving reduced interferon-gamma levels. This was followed by **two pilot studies** and a **Phase II randomized, double-blind trial**. In the Phase II trial, 3g oral tablet of AHCC daily for 6 months led to high-risk HPV clearance in 63% of the treatment group vs. 10% of controls. **Papilocare:** The **Paloma trial (multicentre, open-label, randomized study)** reported HPV clearance of 62.5% in the treatment group vs. 40.0% in controls. In women over 40 with high-risk HPV, clearance rates were 66.7% vs. 44.4%. The **Papilobs; real-life observational study** (192 efficacy, 201 safety patients) showed 77.1% cervical lesion repair (76.0% for HR-HPV) and 71.6% HPV clearance (70.6% for HR-HPV), with satisfaction scores of 7.9 and 7.5 at 6 and 12 months, respectively. **Another observational study** reported HR-HPV clearance of 67.0% in the treated group vs. 37.2% in controls after 6 months.

Conclusion: **AHCC Tablet** and **Papilocare® vaginal gel** (Turkey Tail Mushroom extract) show early promise in promoting HPV clearance. Larger, high-quality trials are needed to confirm the efficacy of individual agents, assess potential synergistic effects, and guide standardized treatment strategies to reduce the global HPV burden. With robust clinical evidence, integrating these interventions into national and international HPV guidelines could mark a transformative step in preventing HPV-related cancers.