

“Human Papilloma Virus”: A common Spelling Error in Medical Literature

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Dear Editor,

Human papillomavirus is a double-stranded DNA virus belonging to the Papillomaviridae family and it is responsible for causing some peculiar anogenital and oral diseases, ranging from benign epithelial hyperplasias (i.e. warts) to malignant neoplastic lesions (e.g. oropharyngeal cancer, cervical cancer, etc.).^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7}

According to medical history, *human papillomavirus* was first discovered in chickens in 1911 (8). However, about 70 years later, it was extensively investigated by a medical doctor-scientist named Harald zur Hausen. Through his research, it was discovered that *human papillomavirus* is a carcinogenic virus.⁸

According to the World Health Organization, the correct spelling of the above-described virus is *human papillomavirus*, as used above. However, we also noticed, over the years, that the authors of some medical literature are erroneously using this spelling: *human papilloma virus*.^{10,11,12,13} This is a spelling error that needs to be avoided in medical writing. Hence, we write to call your attention, as well as that of the scientific community-at-large, to this common spelling error.

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