**Background**

Cervical cancer is a largely preventable disease with an established screening program in Australia. It is imperative that we understand about perceptions of this disease and its prevention within female refugee populations, who belong to a larger group of migrant women who under-present to screening1.

**Aims**

What do female Assyrian refugees arriving in Australia in the past 5 years understand about cervical cancer and its prevention?

**Method**

This qualitative study involved semi-structured interviews in Arabic with Assyrian migrant and refugee women. We explored women’s knowledge of cervical cancer and screening, including barriers and facilitators to accessing information and screening. We discussed how women would prefer to be educated on this subject. Thematic analysis was undertaken.

**Results**

The 14 participants were married and ranged in age from 30’s to 70’s. Preliminary coding revealed issues surrounding health literacy with regards to cervical cancer and screening. The provision of knowledge during the interviews appeared to empower participants to want to learn more. Potential barriers to accessing screening tests included fear of the test and of an abnormal result, and need for permission of the woman’s husband. There was a lack of knowledge about Human Papilloma Virus and its vaccine, but participants advised that the vaccine would be acceptable to the community.

**Conclusion**

Findings from this study can be used to inform further work on engaging Assyrian refugee women to participate in the national cervical screening program with the ultimate aim of reducing cervical cancer rates within this vulnerable group.

**References**

1. Aminisani N, Armstrong B and Canfell K, Cervical cancer screening in Middle Eastern and Asian migrants to Australia: A record linkage study. Cancer Epidemiology, 2012;6:e394-400