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Scuola di Medicina

Levels of prevention in health





Prevention: an evolutive concept

Prevention, in a narrow sense, means averting the development of a pathological state.

In a broader sense, it includes all measures—definitive therapy among them— that **limit the progression** of disease at any stage of its course

Clark DW, MacMahon B. Preventive medicine. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co,1967.





Prevention: an evolutive concept

Diseases prevention covers measures not only to prevent the occurrence of disease, such as risk factor reduction, but also to **arrest its progress** and reduce its consequences once established

WHO 1998

Action to reduce or eliminate or reduce the onset, causes, complications, or recurrence of disease

Australian National Public Health Partnership, 1998





Preventable causes of the diseases BEING

- Biological factors and Behavioral Factors
- Environmental factors
- Immunologic factors
- Nutritional factors
- Genetic factors
- Services, Social factors, and Spirituals factors

JF Jekel, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Preventive Medicine, 1996





Levels of prevention

- Primordial prevention
- Primary prevention
- Secondary prevention
- Tertiary prevention
- Quaternary prevention



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Levels of prevention: different target

Level	target		
Primordial prevention	Health determinants		
Primary prevention	Healthy subjects		
Secondary preventions	Asymptomatic subjects		
Tertiary prevention	III patients		
Quaternary prevention	Subgroup of ill patients		





Primordial prevention

- minimize future hazards to health
- hence inhibit the establishment factors
 (environmental, economic, social, behavioural, cultural) known to increase the risk of disease
- It addresses broad <u>health determinants</u> rather than preventing personal exposure to risk factors





Primordial prevention

Teens / Drugs & Health Blog / If You're Under Age 21, Drinking Is Always Illegal

Drugs & Health Blog

If You're Under Age 21, Drinking Is Always Illegal

Sara Bellum May 02, 2013

You're going to an after-prom party, and your parents ask if the host's parents will be there. You may say, "yes," and it may be true, but you also secretly may know that they will allow underage guests to drink alcohol. You think this is okay, because, after all, an adult is there.

Not true.





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Primordial prevention



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Primary prevention

preventing the onset of specific diseases via risk reduction:

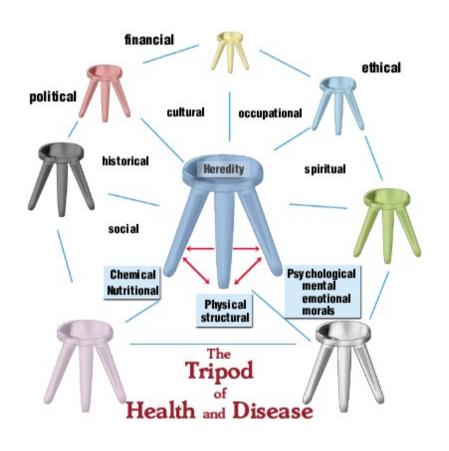
- by altering behaviours or exposures that can lead to disease
- by enhancing resistance to the effects of exposure to a disease agent





Primary prevention Positive health

achievement and mantenance of an acceptable level of health that will enable every individual to lead a socially and economically productive life





Primary prevention

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Primary prevention

Health promotion

Specific protection



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Primary prevention

Health education

Nutritional interventions

Life style and behavioral change

Environmental modification

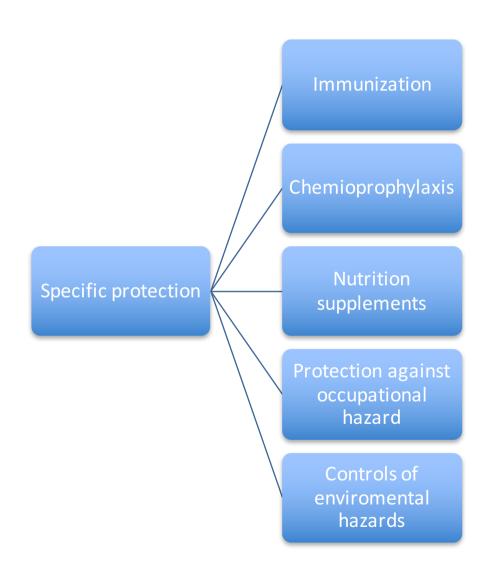
Health promotion

The process of enabling people to increase control ove the determinants of health and thereby improve their health



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Primary prevention





Health promotion

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Health promotion

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Specific protection



World Immunization Week 2016: Close the immunization gap

Immunization game-changers should be the norm worldwide

21 April 2016 -- Immunization averts 2 to 3 million deaths annually. However, an additional 1.5 million deaths could be avoided, if global vaccination coverage improves. Today, nearly 1 in 5 children worldwide are still missing routine immunizations for preventable diseases. During World Immunization Week 2016, WHO highlights recent gains in immunization coverage, and outlines further steps needed to meet global vaccination targets by 2020.

Read the press release

Watch the video on immunization week
Read the commentary on vaccines



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Approaches for primary prevention

Mass strategies

directed at the whole population irrespective of individual risk level

High-risk strategies

directed to people at special or major health risk



Population strategies

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High risk strategies







Secondary prevention

procedures that detect and treat preclinical pathological changes and thereby control disease progression

- Oncological screening
- Cardiovascular/metabolic screening





The milestone of secondary prevention

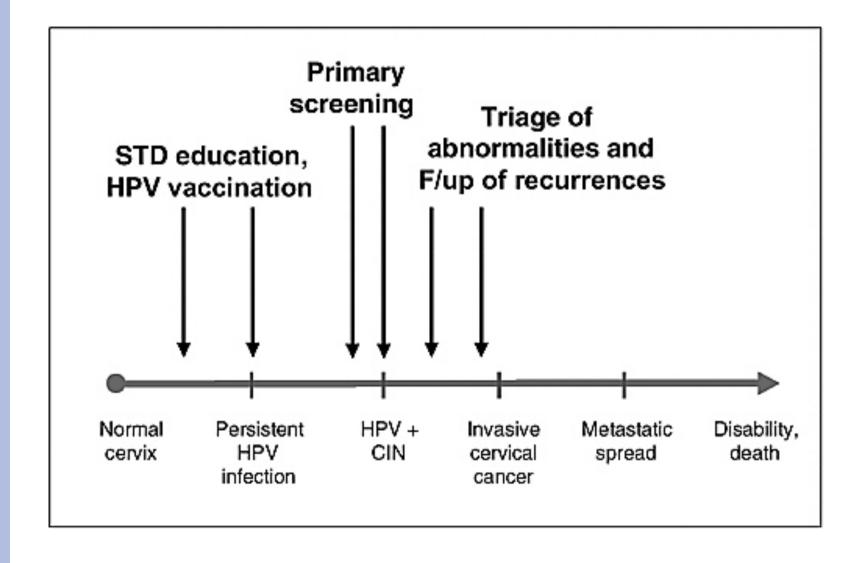
Early diagnosis of asymptomatic subjects

 Adequate treatment that could arrest the disease process



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Secondary prevention







Tertiary prevention

- All the measures available to reduce or limit impairments and disabilities, and to promote the patients adjustment to irrimediable conditions
- The milestones of tertiary prevention are
 - Disability limitation
 - Rehabilitation



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Disability limitation

Disease

Impairment

Disability

Handicap





Disability limitation Ictus

Ictus

Impairment: Patient loss the ability to use the right harm

> Disability: the patient is not able to perform his work or other occupation

> > Handicap: the patient could begin unemployed

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Rehabilitation

The combined and coordinated use of medical, social, educational and vocational measures for training and retraining the individual to the highest possible level of functional ability

- Medical rehabilitation
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Social rehabilitation
- Psycological rehabilitation



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Rehabilitation





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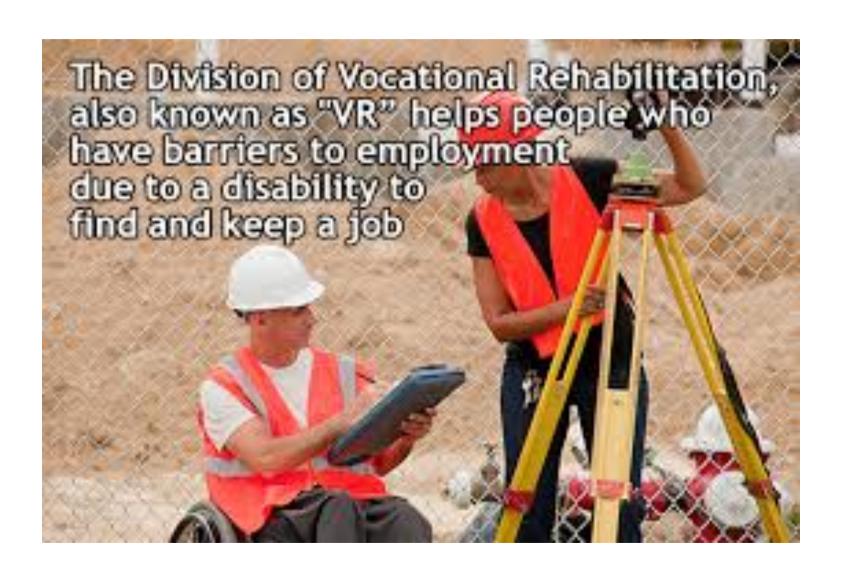
Rehabilitation





Vocational rehabilitation programs

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Vocational rehabilitation programs

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Prevention level

Disease	Intervention level	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Colorectal cancer	Individual	Counselling on healthy lifestyles: dietary counselling for people at risk of colorectal cancer, etc.	Hemoccult stool testing to detect colorectal cancer early	Follow-up exams to identify recurrence or metastatic disease: physical examination, liver enzyme tests, chest x-rays, etc.
	Population	Publicity campaigns alerting the public to the benefits of lifestyle changes in preventing colorectal cancers; promotion of high fibre diets; subsidies to help people access exercise programmes; anti-smoking campaigns	Organized colonoscopy screening programs	Implementation of health services organizational models that improve access to high-quality care
Infectious diseases: hepatitis C	Individual	Counselling on safe drug use to prevent hepatitis C virus (HCV) transmission; counselling on safer sex	Screening for HCV infection of patients with a history of injection drug use	HCV therapy to cure infection and prevent transmission
	Population	HCV prevention includes safer sex practices, programmes to discourage needle sharing among intravenous drug users, etc.	Establish a universal testing system for HCV in high risk groups	(Similar to primary prevention): ensuring close control of high risk sites such as tattoo parlours that have been associated with outbreaks
Metabolic syndrome	Individual	Nutrition and exercise counselling	Screening for diabetes	Referral to cardiac rehabilitation clinics
	Population	Built environment favourable for active transport (walking, bicycling rather than using a car)	Community level weight loss and exercise programs to control metabolic syndrome	Implementation of multidisciplinary clinics



Quaternary prevention

an action taken to identify a patient at risk of **over-medicalization**, to protect him from new medical invasion, and to suggest to him interventions which are ethically acceptable

National Public Health Partnership. Preventing chronic disease: a strategic framework.
Background paper. Melbourne, Australia:
National Public Health Partnership, 2001



5 levels of prevention

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