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# Participatory Research Techniques Used in the Peru HPV Vaccine Formative Study

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## Participatory Research Techniques Used in the Peru HPV Vaccine Formative Study\*

Characteristic	Free listing/ranking: Illnesses	Pile sorts: Classification of illnesses	Vignettes	Projective technique: Photos	Body mapping
<b>Description of technique**</b>	Participants list perceived health problems and rank according to how serious they consider each to be	Cards bear the name of an illness (cards are added for any “new” illnesses mentioned during free-listing). Participants group the cards according to different criteria: a free sort, severity, diseases affecting women/men, children/adults.	Participants are shown photos of middle-aged women who appear to be sick with cervical cancer, and are asked about the causes and what she should do to prevent or cure the disease	Participants are shown photos of a girl being vaccinated, and are then asked about the positive and negative aspects of this action	Participants are asked to draw a body and indicate where cancer could appear, both for men and women. They are then asked to show a specific location where cervical cancer grows.
<b>Suggested participants</b>	Children and parents: individually or in groups	Children or parents: individually or in groups	Children and parents	Children	Children
<b>Type of data generated</b>	A list of health problems, ranked according to perceived severity, both now and in the future	Classification of illnesses and the reasons that certain cards are grouped together	Descriptions of different ways to “prevent and cure” cervical cancer	Attitudes and reactions to vaccination and to the function of vaccines	Illustrations complement and corroborate verbal descriptions of where cervical cancer is located in the body

\*Source: Bingham A, Janmohamed A, Bartolini R, et al. An Approach to Formative Research in HPV Vaccine Introduction Planning in Low-Resource Settings. *The Open Vaccine Journal*. 2009;2:1–16.

\*\*For more detail on these techniques, see Bernard HR. *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Fourth edition. Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press; 2005.

<p><b>Uses of the data</b></p>	<p>To determine whether cervical cancer is or is not in the spectrum of known, possible illnesses</p>	<p>To determine understanding of cervical cancer in relation to other illnesses in terms of severity and importance, grouped by age and sex</p>	<p>To further corroborate across groups the perceived causes and cures of cervical cancer. To provide descriptive narratives for use in developing communication campaigns.</p>	<p>To clarify how people perceive and value vaccination in order to develop communication campaigns</p>	<p>To clarify what people understand about cervical cancer in order to develop communication campaigns</p>
<p><b>How technique can improve the data collection process</b></p>	<p>Facilitate the introduction of a discussion about illnesses in general, to collect information on perceived spectrum of illnesses</p>	<p>Facilitate initial discussion of cervical cancer through the grouping of the cards</p>	<p>Facilitate identification and corroboration of causality and what cancers are present in the life of a woman</p>	<p>Facilitate the exploration of the vaccination process and what is known about it</p>	<p>Facilitate literal understanding of where cervical cancer is located in the body; allows deeper probing of cervical cancer if topic hasn't been mentioned</p>