Factors associated with cervical cancer screening among migrant women in Europe
A systematic scoping review Protocol

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Introduction
• Cervical cancer is the 4th most common cancer in women in Europe1. Cervical cancer screening (CCS) reduces its incidence and mortality, but its effectiveness relies on the quality of screening and women’s participation2,3.
• Migrant women show low participation in CCS, which might compromise a early diagnosis of the disease4.
• Since migration rates are high in Europe, it’s important to understand which barriers and facilitators influence participation in CCS among migrants to develop strategies to increase their participation.

Objective
• Since migration rates are high in Europe, the main objective of this study is to analyze existing evidence about the factors associated with CCS participation among migrant women in Europe.

Research Question
“What are the factors influencing participation in cervical cancer screening among migrant women in Europe?”

Methods

1. Eligibility Criteria
   Inclusion criteria:
   - Research studies, or official documents;
   - Study populations: migrant women, or healthcare providers working with migrants;
   - Main results: factors influencing CCS participation among migrant women living in EU/EFTA states.

2. Information Sources
   Databases:
   - PubMed;
   - Web of Science;
   - EMBASE;
   - Cinahl;
   - Psycinfo;
   - Scopus;
   - Rocaap.
   - No time restriction; studies written in English, Portuguese, and Spanish will be included.

3. Search Strategy
   Research expression:
   - Will include relevant keywords and MeSH terms related to:
     - Migrant;
     - Cervical cancer;
     - Europe.
   - Additional cross-screening through the citation list of selected papers will be performed.

4. Sources of Evidence
   Selection of articles:
   - Performed independently by two researchers applying the defined criteria;
   - 1. Review of the title and abstracts extracted and classification in ‘included’, ‘excluded’ or ‘uncertain’;
   - 2. Review of the full-text version of included or uncertain studies.

5. Data Charting Process
   Charting table:
   - Based on existing conceptual frameworks5, might be adapted.
   - Information included: authors/year of publication, location, study design, data source, sample size, study population, screening participation, screening characteristics, and factors identified.

6. Synthesis of Results
   Categorization:
   - Factors associated with CCS participation among migrants found in the literature will be classified into barriers or facilitators, and grouped into themes:
     - Socioeconomic,
     - Health-related,
     - Cultural/religious,
     - Individual,
     - Knowledge.

Main Findings

Expected results
• Highlights of which barriers these women face when attempting to participate in CCS, and what factors might facilitate their participation.
• Might provide insights on what can be done to reduce barriers and develop strategies to increase participation among migrants.

Strengths and limitations
• The proposed methodology allows a robust assessment of the factors influencing CCS participation in literature;
• The study will be conducted by a multidisciplinary team (health and social sciences specialists), providing different perspectives on the issue;
• The main limitation expected is the identification of all eligible literature, specifically grey literature;
• Additionally, some countries might have no formal research on migrant participation in CCS.

References