

TABLE 1. QUESTIONS AND ISSUES RAISED BY PARENTS AT INFORMATION EVENINGS

Category/example questions or statements	Frequency (n=155)
Safety	32
'You are giving a relatively new vaccine at the age of 12–13 that could be harmful in years to come and cause them to become ill or suffer side-effects that are not yet known about.'	
Vaccine efficacy and length of protection	27
'How long before we know about the efficacy and if there will be a booster available?'	
Practicalities	23
'Can a foster mum consent to this vaccine or does it have to be a social worker?'	
Vaccine testing and licensing	20
'What proportion of the trial was in the under-14-years age group?'	
Transmission of HPV	12
'Is it not passed on genetically?'	
Fertility	10
'Will the vaccine affect development or stop periods?'	
Risk to boys	10
'Does it affect boys or are they just carriers?'	
Age of vaccination	8
'It's stealing her childhood and innocence to talk about such things at this age. I had to ask her older sister to explain why she didn't need the injection.'	
Perceived contraindications	7
'My daughter has asthma. Is this a problem?'	
Perceived low risk of infection	3
'Why should my daughter need it? Our religion does not condone sex before marriage.'	
Condoning sexual activity	1
'I think it will make them more promiscuous but, if they are going to be that way, it's not going to stop them.'	
Other	2