



Knowledge regarding PAP smear among women in Kamakshi Nagar at Nellore

G Shanthi^{1*}, V Jayanthi², Budda Kavitha³, Dr. Indira S⁴

¹ Professor, Sree Narayana Nursing College, Department of Community Health Nursing, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, India

² Principal & HOD, Sree Narayana Nursing College, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecological Nursing, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, India

³ Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Nursing, Narayana College of nursing, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, India

⁴ Principal and Nursing Dean, Narayana Nursing Institutions, Department of Medical Surgical nursing, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, India

Abstract

Background: Cervical cancer screening is an essential part of women's routine health care. It is a way to detect abnormal cervical cells including precancerous cervical lesions as well as early cervical cancer. Cervical cancer screening includes two types of screening test. Cytology based screening known as Pap test or Pap smear and HPV screening. The Pap test can also find noncancerous condition such as infections and inflammation. It can also find cancer cells.

Objectives: 1. To assess the level of knowledge regarding Pap smear among women. 2. To find out the association between level of knowledge regarding Pap smear among women with their selected socio demographic variables.

Materials and Methods: The descriptive research design was used to conduct research study. The 30 women were selected by using non probability convenience sampling technique in Kamakshi Nagar at Nellore.

Result: The result reveals that, with regards to level of knowledge regarding Pap smear among women, 17 (57%) had in adequate knowledge, 10 (33%) had moderate knowledge and 3(10%) had adequate knowledge.

Keywords: knowledge, pap smear, women, cervical cancer

Introduction

Cervical cancer is the fourth most frequent cancer in women with an estimated 570,000 new cases in 2018 representing 6.6% of all female cancers. Approximately 90% of deaths from cervical cancer occurred in low- and middle-income countries. The high mortality rate from cervical cancer globally could be reduced through a comprehensive approach that includes prevention, early diagnosis, effective screening and treatment programmes. There are currently vaccines that protect against common cancer-causing types of human papilloma virus and can significantly reduce the risk of cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer is one of the few preventable human cancers; its prevention is based on the early diagnosis of precancerous lesions whose treatment generally makes the development of cancer almost impossible. Screening of cervical cancer in effective, feasible and affordable way for early detection and management is a public health priority. Five screening methods namely; naked eye visual inspection of the cervix with application of diluted acetic acid (VIA), examination with Lugol's Iodine (VILI) or with a magnifying device (VIAM), the Pap smear and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) testing with high-risk probe of the Hybrid Capture-2 assay (HC2) is used to detect the cervical cancer in precancerous stage.

Ashtarian H (2017), Conducted a Cross-sectional study to determine the level of knowledge about cervical cancer and Pap smear and the factors influencing the Pap test screening among women. In this cross-sectional study, 355 women referred to the health centers of Gilan-e gharb city were randomly recruited in 2015. The participants asked to complete a self-administered questionnaire including five parts (questions about: demographic factors, knowledge

about cervical cancer and Pap smear, Pap smear performance, barriers and facilitators related to Pap smear and the sources of information). Data were analyzed through SPSS version 19, using descriptive statistics, Independent T-test, and logistic regression. The mean age of the participants was 34.08 ± 7.81 years. Almost 50.4% of the subjects had a history of Pap smear test. Pap test performance was significantly higher in those who had higher knowledge ($P < 0.001$). Knowledge about cervical cancer, Pap smear and age was the most important predictors of the Pap test performance ($P < 0.001$). The most important barrier and facilitator to Pap smear test were inadequate knowledge and the recommendations received from family, friends and healthcare professionals (44.3% and 40.2%, respectively). Knowledge about Pap smear and cervical cancer was important in predicting Pap test doing. In addition, inadequate knowledge was introduced as the most important barrier to screening test from the perspective of women. Therefore, we suggest that health education and health promotion studies as interdisciplinary and targeted interventions should be implemented to improve the women's knowledge.

Statement Problem

A Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Pap smear among Women in Kamakshi Nagar at Nellore.

Objectives

- To assess the level of knowledge regarding pap smear among women.
- To find out the association between level of knowledge regarding pap smear among women with their selected socio demographic variables

Materials and Methods

A quantitative research approach and descriptive research design was used to assess the knowledge regarding Pap smear among Women in Kamakshi Nagar at Nellore. The sample includes all women who are residing in Kamakshi Nagar. 30 women were selected by using non probability convenience sampling technique. With the help of extensive reviews from various text books, net sources and journals, 36 structured questionnaires were developed to assess the knowledge regarding Pap smear. Each correct answer was given by score '1' and wrong answer by score '0'. The score interpretation was >75% Adequate knowledge, 55-75% Moderate knowledge and <50% Inadequate knowledge. The tool was sent to nursing experts for content validity. The reliability of the tool 'r' value was 0.86. The tool was tested for the feasibility by conducting pilot study among 3 women. Prior formal permission was obtained from the institutional ethical committee, Narayana Medical College Hospital, Nellore and permission obtained from the village sarpanch. The samples were informed by the investigator about the purpose of the study and the written consent was obtained. The data collection was carried out 2 weeks. Data was collected by using socio demographic variables and a structured questionnaire was used to measure the level of knowledge regarding Pap smear. It took 10- 15 minutes to collect the data from each participant. The data was analyzed and tabulated by using descriptive and inferential statistics based on objectives of the study.

Result and Discussion

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding Pap smear among women. (n=30)

Level of knowledge	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
In adequate knowledge	17	57
Moderate knowledge	10	33
Adequate knowledge	3	10
Total	30	100

Table no 1: Shows that with regards to level of knowledge regarding Pap smear among women, 17 (57%) had in adequate knowledge, 10 (33%) had moderate knowledge and 3(10%) had adequate knowledge.

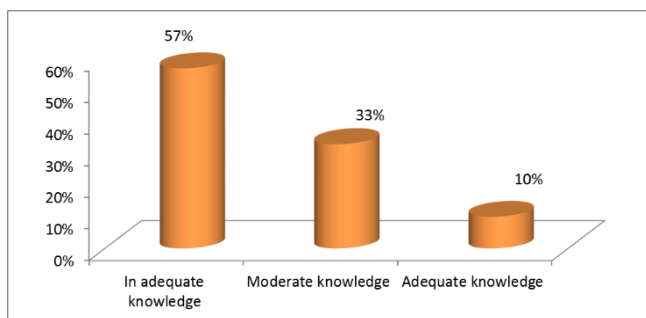


Fig 1: Percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding Pap smear among women

Table 2: Mean and Standard deviation of knowledge regarding Pap smear among women (n=30)

Criteria	Mean	Standard deviation
Level of knowledge	42.5	13.03

Table no 2: Shows that level of knowledge regarding Pap smear among women mean values is 42.5 with standard

deviation of 13.03.

Nursing implications: The findings of the study have several implications for nursing practice, nursing education, nursing administration and nursing research.

Nursing Practice

- The community health nurse can teach the women about the how to reduce the risk for cervical cancer.
- The community health nurse can educate the women about the preventive measures to reduce the cervical cancer

Nursing Education

- Mass awareness programmes need to be initiated.
- They should take up the responsibility to create awareness to Pap smear test among women to prevent cervical cancer.

Nursing Research

- The essence of research is to build up the body of knowledge in nursing as an evolving profession.
- More research studies stimulate recommended, recognize and support the physical and mental and its transient into community practice.

Recommendations for Further Research: On the basis of finding of the study the following recommendations are suggested in the future research:

- A similar study can be conducted at different setting in different population
- A comparative study can be conducted between staff nurses and nursing students.
- A similar study can be also done in higher socio economic group of women.

Conclusion

The study concluded that, majority of the people having in adequate knowledge about the Pap smear. As a research investigator need to conduct various educational programmes to create awareness among public. It helps to women to take preventive measures to reduce risk of cervical cancer.

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