Assessment of knowledge, awareness and attitude about cervical cancer and its screening among women in Makkah, Saudi Arabia

Hibah S Alharbi, Hani A Aziz Jokhdar, Mohammed A Garout, Enas H Al Falogy, Rahma A Al Zahran, Weaam S Al-Harbi and Wafaa I Bahwaini
Umm al-Qura University, Makkah, Saudi Arabia

Background: Cervical cancer is considered the 4th most common cancer of women worldwide. It is the 10th most common cancer in Saudi women. Due to lack of well-organized screening program in KSA most cases of cervical cancer presented to health care services in late stage of disease.

Aim: To assess the level of knowledge, awareness and attitude about cervical cancer and if the women had undergone screening for cervical cancer or not.

Subjects & Methods: A questionnaire based cross-sectional study was conducted among the women attending the outpatient clinics in 3 health care facilities chosen randomly from all health care facilities in Makah. A sample size of 210 was calculated. Data was analyzed using SPSS Version 20.

Results: Majority of the women have good knowledge about cervical cancer (12.9% [27/210]) taking their knowledge mainly from the internet not from doctors. Only (13.8% [29/210]) are aware about screening. Only 21.4% women had undergone screening while 79.5% have positive attitude towards screening. Although 1.9 % took the vaccine, 90% have positive attitude towards vaccination.

Conclusions: Although majority of women had poor knowledge, but still many had positive attitude towards screening and vaccination. Mass media and health care teams should be used to educate women.

Biography
Hibah Saleh Alharbi is a 6th year medical student from Umm al-Qura University at Makkah, Saudi Arabia. She has an interest in health education and increase society awareness about the diseases and how to prevent it. She also has a lot of interest in research work activity field.

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