RESEARCH ARTICLE

A COMPARATIVE STUDY: LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF CERVICAL CANCER AMONG NURSING STAFF IN GENERAL HOSPITALS OF HARYANA

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Manuscript Info

Abstract

Background:
Cancer of the cervix is the 2nd most prevalent cancer of the female genital tract throughout the world and resulting huge no. of deaths every year and most of which occurs in developing countries like India., in which most of the cases are triggered by HPV i.e. Human Papilloma Virus. It can occur at any age but most of the cases are reported after 25 years of age. So women are advised to go for regular screening for cervical cancer after 25 years of age. As reducing the cases of cervical cancer death only way is early diagnosis of sign ad symptoms by regular screening. And for screening knowledge and awareness regarding cervical cancer is necessary. This knowledge level is comparatively very low in Indian women, that's why this study was undertaken to know about the awareness and knowledge level of nurses so that they can spread valuable knowledge regarding cervical cancer to general public.

Objectives:

(1) To find the level of awareness and knowledge of nursing staff regarding symptoms, risk factors, warning signs of Cervical Cancer among nursing staff.
(2) To find the level of awareness and knowledge of the respondents regarding diagnostic techniques of Cervical Cancer.
(3) To find the level of awareness and knowledge of respondents regarding Health Education Program conducted by Government for Cervical Cancer.

MATERIAL AND METHODS
A structured questionnaire with multiple choices was made to access the knowledge and awareness of nursing staff of the district hospitals of jind and sonipat.

RESEARCHES DESIGN OF PRESENT STUDY
This study was Cross sectional study as it involves findings about "awareness and knowledge of nursing staff regarding Cervical Cancer at General Hospital Sonipat and Jind, (Haryana). The purpose of study was to find the level of awareness and knowledge of nursing staff.

SAMPLE DESIGN
100 nurses as sample (50 from Sonipat & 50 from Jind) irrespective of their age, marital status, parity and experience were selected by convenience sampling from General Hospitals of Haryana.

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout the world cervical cancer is the 2nd most common cancer in females but India is the country which take first position in reporting the cases of cervical cancer. "According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), India has the highest number of cervical carcinoma cases in the world. There are an estimated 1,32,000 new cases and 74,000 deaths occur every year'[**1**]. Commonest reason for its occurrence is sexually transmitted disease (STD) with HPV. No. of HPV increases with unhygienic vaginal conditions and multiple sexual partners. Other risk factors include Sexual transmitted disease, Family history, Oral contraceptive used, and Smoking. The Pap test is used for diagnosing the occurrence of cervical cancer at early stage.

In today's time Cervical Cancer is one of the most deadly diseases among females. This disease can only be controlled if detected early and this could be possible only if awareness and knowledge about cervical cancer is provided to females and nursing staff that will further plays an important role in providing awareness and knowledge to female patients and their relatives who visited the General Hospitals. "Nurses being an important link between the doctors and female patients in OPD or wards, it is imperative that they should be aware of the facts about cervical cancer and especially of screening techniques which can be utilized in low-resource settings"[**2**]. "The Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), a USA-based not for profit non-governmental organization (NGO), has been undertaking post-licensing observational studies on HPV vaccines in India on coverage, acceptability, feasibility and costs of the vaccines in two Indian states, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation" [3]. "Cervical cancer is preventable if detected at early stage and few nurses are aware about that cervical cancer vaccine is also available".[4]

"The majority of nursing staff in rural India may have inadequate knowledge about cervical cancer screening, and their attitude and practices towards cervical cancer screening could not be termed positive"[5]. In Haryana most of the low income group patients visit the general hospital as per cost effectiveness issue and these are the major unaware group of women population regarding cervical cancer, here nurses can act as promotional agent regarding spread and prevention of cervical cancer. They can give knowledge about diagnostic techniques for detecting cervical cancer to the female patients and their relatives coming to general hospitals. This study was carried out to know about the knowledge and awareness of nursing staff of district hospitals of Haryana.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This study was carried out among nursing staff of two district hospitals (Jind and Sonipat) of Haryana, India. Total 100 nurses were taken as sample for study. 50 respondents from each district hospital i.e. Jind and Sonipat were chosen. Nurses were selected for response is on random basis. This study was conducted during March and April 2015. A structured questionnaire with multiple choices was used for collecting data. Selected nurses were interviewed by the investigator for seeking information about the format. Questionnaire was divided into 6 parts i.e General Information, Risk factors of cervical cancer, Warning Signs of cervical cancer, Diagnostic Techniques, Vaccination for cervical cancer and Health Education Program for cervical cancer. Awareness and knowledge of staff nurses were assessed on the basis of these 6 parts of questionnaire. A sample of 15 nurses was used for pretesting the questionnaire and the result of which necessary changes were made. After that data were collected and data entry was made in Microsoft Excel. Data analysis was done by using SPSS Statistical Software and value <0.05 was considered as level of significance.

RESULT

Out of 100 nurses maximum(55%) were of 30 to 40 years of age with 36 years as a mean age. 60% of the sample population were married and parity rate was maximum(50%) with 2 child parity and the nurses having experience in the range of 20 to 30 years was in maximum number(45%). While comparing the knowledge of two districts nurses it was found that the knowledge of sonipat district nurses regarding risk factors of cervical cancer was little bit greater than jind district nurses as shows in table 1.

Level of Awareness and knowledge of Nursing Staff regarding Risk Factors

Table- 1

Sr. No.	Factors	JIND		SONIPAT		TOTAL	
		Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks	Sum of Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
1	Infection by HPV	50.12	2506.00	50.88	2544.00	50.50	2525
2	Suffering from STD	52.37	2618.50	48.63	2431.50	50.50	2525
3	Family History	49.71	2485.50	51.29	2564.50	50.50	2525
4	Long term use of contraceptive	49.67	2483.50	51.33	2483.50	50.50	2525
5	Having multiple sexual partner	48.50	2425.00	52.50	2625.00	50.50	2525
6	Smoking	51.04	2552.00	49.96	2498.00	50.50	2525
	Over all	**50.235**	**2511.75**	**50.765**	**2524.4166**	**50.50**	**2525**

The above table shows level of awareness and knowledge of nursing staff of General Hospital Jind and Sonipat regarding Risk Factors. According to this calculation Mean of Awareness and knowledge regarding Risk factor in nurses of Sonipat is near to the Sum of Mean rank of Sum of Ranks. This shows that nurses of Sonipat Districts are more aware as compared to Jind District Nurses and Sum of Ranks of Sonipat District nurses is also more as compared to Jind District Reason behind this increase in level of awareness in Sonipat District is due to younger nursing staff, Sonipat is near to Delhi NCR region hence developmental factors also contribute for it, due to better facilities of education in nurses of Sonipat District this increase is noticed.

Correlation among different factors related to awareness and knowledge of nurses

Table-2

		Risk Factor	Warning Signs	Diagnostic Techniques	Vaccination	Educational Programs
Risk Factor	Pearson Correlation	1	-.178	.001	.104	-.019
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.077	.990	.302	.849
	N	100	100	100	100	100
Warning Signs	Pearson Correlation	-.178	1	-.015	-.042	.001
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.077		.886	.679	.991
	N	100	100	100	100	100
Diagnostic Techniques	Pearson Correlation	.001	-.015	1	-.109	.207[*]
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.990	.886		.280	.039
	N	100	100	100	100	100
Vaccination	Pearson Correlation	.104	-.042	-.109	1	.059
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.302	.679	.280		.563
	N	100	100	100	100	100
Educational Programs	Pearson Correlation	-.019	.001	.207[*]	.059	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.849	.991	.039	.563	
	N	100	100	100	100	100

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The result of Correlation matrix shows that inverse relationship exist between Risk Factors and Warning Signs and the value of correlation is -.178 which is not significant at any level, so it can be said that negative relationship exist between Risk Factors and Warning signs which is not significant , may be due to small sample size. This relationship shows that if we put a little emphasis on the risk factors of Cervical cancer then the warning signs can be controlled. Inverse relationship is found in between Warning Signs and Diagnostic Techniques and the value of correlation is -.015 which is not significant at any level, so it proves that if diagnostic techniques are more effective then we can early detect the warning signs of cervical cancer. Relationship among Diagnostic Techniques and Vaccination is inversely proportion and the value of correlation is -.109 which is not significant at any level. This relationship shows that if females are more aware of the Diagnostic Techniques than those who are not having any HPV infection can go for Vaccination and which in turn will increase the level of awareness about Cervical Cancer. Inverse positive relationship is found among Vaccination and Educational Programs regarding Cervical Cancer which is significant at level .059, this signifies that if more educational programs will be conducted by the Government regarding Cervical Cancer more females will be aware about the presence of Vaccination for Cervical Cancer and lives of many females can be saved. There is a positive correlation between Diagnostic Techniques and Educational Programs and the value of the correlation is 0.207 which is significant at level 0.05. It signifies that if the educational program about Cervical Cancer increases, than number of Diagnosed cases also increases itself resulting into awareness and knowledge about Cancer in females.

CONCLUSION
After analyzing the level of awareness and knowledge of nursing staff of General Hospital of Jind and Sonipat we came to the conclusion that there is no significant difference in nurses of these two Districts regarding level of awareness and knowledge about Cervical Cancer but nurses of Sonipat Districts are a bit more aware as compared to Jind District Nurses but this awareness and knowledge is not up to the mark and a great enhancement in this knowledge is required. Government should have to run more training program regarding use of diagnostic techniques for cervical cancer for nurses of rural India. Awareness program should be conducted regarding HPV and information regarding its vaccination should be disseminated.
Testing for Pap smear should be made mandatory for every female patient concerning to gynecologist regarding any gynecological problem in all district hospitals. Social awareness programs should be run providing knowledge how sexual activity, use of condom and smoking can influence cancer risk. Promotion for discussion of gynecological symptoms to minimize the role that embarrassment plays in preventing early diagnosis of several major disease of private region like cervical cancer.

REFRENCES

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