Research Paper

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Socio Demographic Profile of Patients With Cancer of Cervix Attending Tertiary Care Hospital

Medical Science

KEYWORDS : Cancer, Cervix, Sociodemograhy

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: In India it is estimated that approximately 1, 00,000, woman develops cervical cancer each year. In woman cervix cancer were the leading fatal causes in both rural and urban area. The objective of the present study was to know the socio demographic profile of patients with carcinoma cervix attending tertiary care hospital. Methodology: A hospital based cross sectional study was carried out for three years from 2010 to 2013. After obtaining consent, relevant socio demographic information was gathered and data was entered in Microsoft excel and presented as proportions. The 100 patients attending tertiary care hospital during the study period were study subjects. Results: The mean age of study subjects was 45 years. Among total study subjects, 74% of patients belonged to rural area, 92% were Hindus, 38% were illiterates, 32% were not working, and 52% of study subjects belonged to low SES group. Conclusion: Further epidemiological studies are needed to prove the effect of demographic factors on occurrence of cancer cervix.

Introduction:

The World Health Report 2004 has indicated that non-communicable diseases account for almost 60% of deaths and 47% of the global burden of disease. The countries of the South-East Asia Region are facing a double burden, with a heavy load of infectious diseases and an increasing burden due to non-communicable diseases. Non-communicable diseases account for 51% of all deaths and 44% of the disease burden in this Region (SEAR). .Cardiovascular disease and cancer are the leading cause of death in developed countries, accounting for 70 – 75% of total deaths1

Cervical cancer is one of the most common cancer among women worldwide. Cervical cancer is potentially the most preventable and treatable cancer but unfortunately it is the leading cause of cancer morbidity and mortality in women around the world2

Cervical cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the fourth leading cause of cancer death among females worldwide, accounting for 9% of the total new cancer cases and 8% of the total cancer deaths among females.3

Cervical cancer ranks first among the female cancers in India. India bears one third of the world burden of cervical cancer. The incidence of cervical cervical cancer for the year 2008 in India was 1,34,4204

Risk factors for cancer cervix includes HPV infection, parity, use of oral contraceptives, use of tobacco,immunosuppression, STD and poor nutrition but there is limited studies on socio-odemographic determinants of cervical cancer and hence this study was conducted to know the socio demographic profile of cervix cancer patients.

Methodology:

A descriptive study was carried out at a tertiary care hospital, Bellary, Karnataka during January 2010 to March 2013. A total of 100 patients with diagnosis of cancer cervix were the study subjects and these study subjects selected using non probability purposive sampling technique. Patients not willing to participate in study were excluded. After explaining the purpose of the study, informed written consent was taken and data was collected using a pre tested semi structured questionnaire. Detailed history was recorded in a proforma, regarding age, sex, presenting complaints, habits of chewing tobacco, pan and gutkha, habit of smoking and consumption of alcohol.

Data was entered in Microsoft excel and presented as proportions. After gathering the information, health education on risk factors of cancer more emphasising on cancer of cervix was given to patients.

Results and Discussion:

Table.no1: Sociodemographic charcters of patients with cancer cervix

Socio demographic factors	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
<40 years	24	24%
40 – 60 years	72	72%
>60 years	04	04%
Residence		
Rural	74	74%
Urban	36	36%
Religion		
Hindu	92	92%
Muslim	06	06%
Others	02	02%
Education		
Illiterate	38	38%
Primary	12	12%
Secondary	43	43%
College & above	07	07%
Occupation		
Not working	32	32%
Unskilled	54	54%
Semi skilled	04	04%
Skilled	08	08%
Professionals	00	00%
Others	02	02%
Socio economic status		
High	03	03%
Middle	45	45%
Low	52	52%
Marital status		
Married	83	83%
Not married/widow/ separated	17	17%
Age of marriage		
<20 years	78	78%
>20 years	22	22%

A total of 100 patients were considered for this study and it was found that the mean age of study subjects was 45 years and it implies that productive age group is more commonly involved. Similar to our study, the mean age was 47 years in a study conducted in Philippines5

A study conducted in Thailand revealed that the mean age of cancer cervix patients was 50.3%6 whereas a study done among U.S females found that 29% of patients belonged to 35 -44 years of age group7.

Among total study subjects, 74% of patients belonged to rural area and remaining 26% belonged to urban area. This difference in proportion may be due to large number of patients from rural area seeking health care to this tertiary hospital. This hospital caters for both Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh patients mainly as it is situated in border of these states

It was observed that, in this study, 92% were Hindus and 6% were Muslims. This is the reflection of major type of religion in India is Hindu followed by Muslim which corresponds to the data of census 20118

Education status revealed that, 38% were illiterates and 43% of patients had secondary education followed by primary (12%) and college (7%)

A study by Franceschi et al9 found that education level was consistently associated with cervical cancer risk and also a study by Arun et al reported that 42.5% cases were illiterates, 13.8% had primary education and 16.4% had secondary education

Occupation of study subjects revealed that 32% were not working and 54% were unskilled labor followed by skilled (8%) and semi skilled (4%)

Socio economic status of study subjects was also assessed and found that 52% of study subjects belonged to low group, 45% belonged to Middle group and remaining 3% belonged to high socio economic group

A study by Tammy S et al7 done in U.S reported that odds of cancer cervix among the high income group was 0.5 as compared to low income group. Whereas a study by Chaouki et al10 reported that odds was 8.17 for low income family

Among 100 study subjects, 83% were married and remaining belonged to unmarried/divoreced/widow group

A study by Trimble et al11 found that women who were divorced or separated were at a significantly higher risk for developing cervical cancer compared to women who were married

In this study results, 78% of females married when they were less than 20 years and our results were similar to a study of Tammy S et al7

Conclusion:

Public awareness through education and improvements in living standards can play an important role in reducing the high incidence of cervical cancer in India.These findings further help in implementation of cervical cancer screening programmes.

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