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A Descriptive Study to Assess Women's Perception on Vaginal Examination in A Selected Hospital, Mangalore.

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To assess women's perception on vaginal examination and to find out the association of women's perception and selected base line variables. Materials and methods: A descriptive study was conducted to assess women's perception on vaginal examination. Total 100 subjects were selected by purposive sampling. Written consent was obtained from the participants and perception rating scale was administered to assess women's perception of how well their vaginal examination were managed. Results: Findings showed that most of the women had negative perception (70%) and few had positive perception (30%). The item wise analysis indicated that 80% of women reported that they felt pain during vaginal examination. Of the 100 women 74% of women were embarrassed with vaginal examination and 74% of them felt great anxiety. About 61% women wished to get more explanation from staff about vaginal examination. Fifty seven percentage of women reported that vaginal examination was unpleasant, while 25% of women reported that vaginal examination was roughly handled. The calculated value of Chi-square showed a significant association of women's perception on vaginal examination with baseline variable, religion ($\chi 2$ =7.72). The findings of the study concluded that majority of the patients' perception was negative on vaginal examination.

KEYWORDS Women, Perception, Vaginal examination

Introduction

Vaginal examination is common and routine aspect of midwifery practice[1]. The sensitive nature of the vaginal examination for both provider and the women necessitate greater concern[2]. The experience of women receiving per vaginal examination varies with each individual and has physical and psychological impact on women. It causes pain, discomfort and anxiety, triggers feelings of fear, shame, guilt, exposure and powerlessness and can negatively affect women's satisfaction with child birth and future fertility[3]. There are many previous reports of variable perceptions of women about vaginal examination. Evidence has shown that some women considered vaginal examination to be a distressing, confusing, painful and embarrassing experience[4]. Clement (1994) noted that many women found vaginal examinations unpleasant and sometimes painful and embarrassing[5].The aim of this study is to identify and describe experiences of vaginal examination among primigravid women.

Objectives

1. To assess the women's perception on vaginal examination.
2. To find an association of perception of vaginal examination with selected baseline variables.

Hypothesis

Hypothesis will be tested at 0.05 level of significance.

H_1:There will be a significant association of women's perception on vaginal examination with selected baseline variables.

Materials and methods

A descriptive research approach was adopted in this study to determine the perception of primigravid women on vaginal examination. The study was approved by Institution ethics committee. The study was conducted in the OBG outpatient department of Father Muller Medical College Hospital at Mangalore. Primigravd women who have undergone vaginal examination at least once were the sample. The investigator used 2 tools Baseline proforma of primigravid women and Perception rating scale.

The100 subjects who fulfilled the inclusion criteria were selected for the study in the OPD using purposive sampling. Prior to the data collection, the investigator familiarized her with the subjects and explained the purpose of the study to them. She assured the confidentiality of their responses. An informed consent was taken from the subjects. The rating scale was administered to the women. The collected data was compiled for analysis to assess the women's perception on vaginal examination. The data was analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics with the help of Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) Program.

Results

As depicted in table 1, majority of the subjects belongs to age category of 18 to 22years (47%) and lowest in the age group of 28–32years (14%). 54 subjects (54%) had secondary education, 32 (32%) subjects were educated upto PUC and 14 (14%) of subjects had primary education. 45% of subjects had a married life of 1to 3 years, 19% of subjects were married for 4-6years and 36% were married for less than one year. 79% of subjects were Muslims 16% of subjects were Hindu and 5% of subjects were Christians. 84% of subjects were from joint family and 16% were belonged to nuclear family. 75% of subjects were living in rural area, 15% of subjects lived in urban area and 10% subjects lived in semi urban area.

38% of subject received information prior to the procedure and 62% did not receive any information prior to the procedure. The Table 2 shows that total score for women's perception on vaginal examination ranged from 49 –78 with the median 63.2 (mean score 60.53) and standard error 0.7054 (SD 7.05). The highest score reflects positive perception of vaginal examination while lowest score reflects negative perception. The 70 women (70%) had negative perception and the 30 women (30%) had positive perception on vaginal examination.

The item wise analysis indicated that 80% of women reported that they felt pain during vaginal examination. Of the 100 women 74% of women were embarrassed with vaginal

examination and 74% of them felt great anxiety. About 61% women wished to get more explanation from staff about vaginal examination. Fifty seven percentage of women reported that vaginal examination was unpleasant, while 25% of women reported that vaginal examination was roughly handled. The calculated value of Chi-square showed a significant association of women's perception on vaginal examination with baseline variable, religion (χ^2 =7.72).

Discussion

In the present study the highest number of subjects were found in the age group of 18 to 22years. Majority of subjects (54%) had secondary education. About 47% women had a married life of 1-3years and 79% were Muslims. Majority (84%) were from joint family and 75% of subject lived in rural area. Total score for women's perception of vaginal examination ranged from 49 –78 with the median 63.2 (mean score 60.53) and standard error 0.7054 (SD 7.05).The 70 women (70%) had negative perception and the 30women (30%) had positive perception on vaginal examination.

Conclusion

The findings of the study concluded that majority of the patients' perception was negative on vaginal examination.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of sample characteristics
N=100

Baseline variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Age group		
18 - 22	47	47
23 - 27	39	39
28- 32	14	14
Education		
Primary education	32	32
Secondary education	54	54
PUC	14	14
Year of married life		
< 1year	36	36
1 - 3	45	45
4 - 6	19	19
Place of residence		
Rural	75	75
Urban	15	15
Semi urban	10	10
Religion		
Hindu	16	16
Christian	5	5
Muslim	79	79
Previous information		
Yes	38	38
No	62	62
Type of Family		
Nuclear	16	16
Joint Family	84	84

Table 2: Range, median, standard error and grading of perception on vaginal examination
N=100

Variables	Range	Median	$SD_{\bar{x}}$	Frequency	percentage
Perception	49 – 78	63.2	0.7054	-	-
Positive perception		>63.2	-	30	30%
Negative perception		<63.2	-	70	70%

Max score 100

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