Research Paper Medical Sciences

Knowledge Regarding Risk Factors of Cervical Cancer and Visual Inspection of Cervix With Acetic Acid Method (Via) Among Health Personnel in a Selected Hospital at Mangalore, With a View to Prepare an Information Booklet

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ABSTRACT

Aim To assess the knowledge regarding risk factors of cervical cancer and Visual Inspection of cervix with Acetic acid method among health personnel and to find out the association of knowledge regarding risk factors of cervical cancer and VIA with selected demographic variables.

Methods A descriptive approach was used for the present study. The subjects were about 150 health personnel andquota sampling technique was used. Data was collected by administering a structured knowledge questionnaire and the obtained data were statistically analyzed by using SPSS 16th version.

Results The findings of the study shows that out of the 150 health personnel 65 (43%) had poor knowledge, 56 (37%) had average knowledge, 29 (20%) had good knowledge and none of them had very good knowledge regarding the risk factors of cervical cancer and VIA.

ConclusionHealth personnel had average knowledge regardingrisk factors of cervical cancer and poor knowledge regarding VIA method.

KEYWORDS Health personnel, Risk factors, VIA.

Introduction

Cervical cancer is an important women's reproductive health problem. It is a preventable disease of significant public health concern especially in developing countries. More than 83% new cases of cervical cancer and 85% of all cervical cancer deaths globally occur in developing countries [2] The American Cancer Society 2013 estimates for cervical cancer in the United States about 12,340 new cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed and 4,030 women will die from cervical cancer. Worldwide, cervical cancer is second most common and the fifth deadliest cancer in women [3]. In India, 366.58 million women are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Currently every year 1,34,420 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 72,825 deaths from the disease. Cervical cancer ranks as the first most frequent cancer among women in India, and the first most frequent cancer among women between 15 to 44 years age group. According to Population Based Registries Cancer (PBRC) 2010, crude incidence rate of cervical cancer at Bangalore was 18.8 and 21.4 was age adjusted incidence rate [4] VIA is a promising option especially for low resource settings. It neither requires a second person for interpretation of results nor second visit by the patient to collect the report nor expensive equipment. Hence, it has been recommended by the WHO as an alternative to cytology to pick up cervical cancer and its precursors [5] Keeping in mind the investigator aims to assess the current knowledge amongst MBBS Interns, 4th year BSc Nursing students and Staff Nurses about the risk factors of cervical cancer and VIA method in a selected hospital at Mangalore. The findings of this study will be useful at the policy level to complement knowledge and awareness about this important public health issue.

Objectives

1. To determine the knowledge regarding risk factors of cervical cancer and Visual Inspection of cervix with Acetic acid method among health personnel.
2. To find the association of knowledge regarding risk factors of cervical cancer and VIA with selected demographic variables like age, gender, education, area of work, years of experience and sources of information.

Hypothesis

H_1- There is a significant association between the knowledge on risk factors of cervical cancer and Visual Inspection of cervix with Acetic acid method with selected demographic variables like age, gender, education, area of work, years of experience and sources of information.

Materials and methods

The descriptive study was conducted among 150 health personnel recruited from theobstetrics and gynecological wards, female oncology ward and College of Nursing. The inclusion criteria for the study were MBBS Interns, 4th year BSc Nursing students, Staff nurses working in the selected wards. The exclusion criteria were the health personnel who have practiced Visual Inspection of Cervix with Acetic acid method for assessing risk factors of cervical cancer. Data collection instruments used for this study were baseline proforma, structured knowledge questionnaire regarding risk factors of cervical cancer and VIA method. The investigator obtained permission to conduct the study from the concerned hospital authority and informed consent was taken from subjects. The health personnel were grouped into three quotas like MBBS Interns, 4th year BSc Nursing students and Staff nurses by quota sampling technique. Each quota represented a subset of the sample chosen for the study and a proportion of 50 each was maintained in each quota. Data was collected through a structured knowledge questionnaire for assessing the level of knowledge regarding risk factors of cervical cancer and VIA. Immediately after collecting data, the results were recorded and tabulated by SPSS 16th version. Information booklet was given for those who had poor and average knowledge regarding VIA.

Results

Out of 50 MBBS Interns all of the subjects (100%) were between 20-30 years, majority of the subjects 30 (60%) were females. Most of the subjects 26 (52%) were from the maternity ward. All the subjects, 50 (100%) had below 2 years of experience and had previous information about risk factors of cervical cancer and VIA.Among the 4th year BSc Nursing students, all 50 (100%) of the subjects were between 20-30 years, and were females. Majority of the subjects 50 (100%) were in the maternity wards. All of the subjects 50 (100%) had below 2 years of experience and had previous information about risk factors of cervical cancer but none of the subjects had previous information regarding VIA.Among the staff nurses, majority 38 (76%) of subjects were in the age group of 20-30 years, all the staff nurses 50 (100%) were females, majority of the staff nurses 26 (52%) were BSc Nurses, and 33 (66%) were from the maternity wards, most of them 35 (70%) had less than 2 year of experience, all the staff nurses 50 (100%) had previous information about the risk factors of cervical cancer and majority 46 (92%) of subjects had no previous information regarding VIA. In this studyreveals that majority (43%) of the subjects had poor knowledge, (37%) had average knowledge, (20%) had good knowledge and none of them had very good knowledge regarding the risk factors of cervical cancer and VIA. This indicates that very few of the health personnel had good knowledge and none of the subjects has very good knowledge regarding risk factors of cervical cancer and VIA (Figure 1). The mean knowledge score of MBBS Interns, BSc Nursing students and Staff Nurses on risk factors of cervical cancer is 13.79, 10.52 and 8.76 and VIA is 7.08, 4.98 and 4.18 respectively (Table 1). There is a significant association of knowledge score with the selected baseline variable like gender in MBBS quota (p=0.018) at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected and the research hypothesis was accepted. However, there was no association between knowledge and baseline variables like age, education, area of work, year of experience, previous information regarding risk factors of cervical cancer, and previous information regarding VIA. Hence, the null hypothesis was accepted and the research hypothesis was rejected.

Discussion

The present study reveals that among 150 health personnel majority of them had good knowledge regarding the risk factors of cervical cancer, 9 subjects had good knowledge regarding VIA and none of them had very good knowledge regarding the risk factors of cervical cancer and VIA. A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted weighted sample of 310 medical workers of Mulago hospital, including nurses, doctors and final year medical students were interviewed using a self-administered questionnaire and measured knowledge about cervical cancer regarding the risk factors, eligibility for screening and screening techniques also attitudes towards cervical cancer screening and practices regarding screening. The findings of the study showed that inadequate knowledge regarding cervical cancer among Medical students and nurses. The students training curriculum needs a review to incorporate practical skills on cervical cancer screening.The findings of the present study as well as previous studies clearly shows that the knowledge of health personnel on the risk factors of cervical cancer was adequate and Visual Inspection with Acetic acid method was inadequate and measures have to be taken to improve the same.

Conclusion

The adoption of "Health for All" by the Government of India implies a commitment to promote and encourage the individual citizens to achieve a higher quality of life. The WHO estimates that the 5.8 billion world population of today will swell by nearly 80 million, per year, to total 8 billion by the year 2025. Average life expectancy in the year 2025 will be 73 years, having risen from 65 years in 1995. But non- communicable diseases are expected to grow in developing countries into this millennium, because of the adoption of western life style. Of course, cancer will continue to hold its place as one of the leading causes of death, worldwide. The risk of cancer will continue to rise in developing countries even until 2025[6] It is a known fact that a medical worker is one of the most important health knowledge provider and promoter, but, if they do not have adequate knowledge level, they will not discriminate the knowledge to the community effectively. From this study and previous relevant studies, it can be clearly concluded that, we could improve the health personnel knowledge regarding risk factors of cervical cancer and VIA method.

Figure 1: Bar diagram showing distribution of subjects according to the grading of knowledge.

Table 1: Domain wise knowledge of the health personnel based on quota
N=50+50+50

Domain	MBBS Interns (Mean ±SD)	BSc N Students (Mean ±SD)	Staff Nurses (Mean ±SD)
Risk factors of cervical cancer	13.79± 2.18	10.52±2.28	8.76.±2.10
VI A method	7.08 ±1.56	4.98±1.88	4.18±1.72

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