



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Community Medicine**

**ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE REGARDING CERVICAL CARCINOMA AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS IN UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN**

**KEY WORDS:**

**Dr. Shikha Mehta** | liird Year Resident, Dept Of Community Medicine, Rnt Medical College, Udaipur Rajasthan, India

**Dr. Chhavi Shripat\*** | Assistant Professor, Dept Of Community Medicine, Rnt Medical College, Udaipur Rajasthan, India \*Corresponding Author

**ABSTRACT**

**INTRODUCTION:** Cervical cancer-related deaths among women in India are often due to late diagnosis of disease. Knowledge about disease and early screening is the most effective measure for cervical cancer prevention. Lack of awareness, negative attitude, and poor practice about cervical cancer and screening are the major causes to increase the incidence of disease.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:** A cross-sectional, hospital-based survey was conducted in medical students of RNT Medical College, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India. A total of 100 subjects were enrolled and subjected for interview using prevalidated KAP questionnaire on cervical cancer.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:** Mean score of knowledge depicts that majority of students (53.1%) had an average level of knowledge, 31.9% had poor level of knowledge and remaining 15% students had good knowledge. Attitude towards vaccination depicts that 78% students had positive attitude followed by 15% students who had negative attitude, while 81% followed good practice. There was no significant difference between male and female medical students. There was positive but weak association between knowledge and attitude and attitude and practice. 81.4% students wanted to get vaccination, among them only 19.6% students could spend money on vaccination, while 80.3% desired that govt should provide HPV vaccination facility.

**CONCLUSION:** Although students are having good knowledge, positive attitude toward cervical cancer screening and prevention still there is a gap to transform it into practice. There is a need for more educational programs to connect identified knowledge slits and uplift of regular practice of cervical cancer screening.

**INTRODUCTION**

Cervical cancer arising from the cervix caused by Human Papilloma Virus in 90% of cases. Other risk factors include smoking, a weak immune system, birth control pills, starting sex at a young age, and having many sexual partners. Cervical cancer is a malignant neoplasm arising from cells originating in cervix uteri.<sup>1</sup> It may be completely asymptomatic in early stages. In advanced stages, it may present as persistent pelvic pain, unexplained weight loss, bleeding between periods, unusual vaginal discharge, bleeding, and pain after sexual intercourse. Worldwide, cervical cancer is both the fourth-most common cause of cancer and the fourth-most common cause of death from cancer in women. About 70% of cervical cancers occur in developing countries.<sup>2</sup> In low-income countries, it is one of the most common causes of cancer death. HPV prevalence among cervical cancer patients in India has varied from 87.8% to 96.67%. Hence a study was conducted to assess knowledge, attitude and practice of medical students regarding cervical carcinoma in RNT medical college, Udaipur, Raj. Infection with human papillomavirus (HPV) types 16 and 18 cause 75% of cervical cancer globally.<sup>3</sup>

**METHODOLOGY**

**Study design-** A cross sectional study was conducted among medical students of **RNT Medical College of Udaipur, Raj.**

- Sample size was calculated by using formula  $N = 4pq/l^2$  on the basis of previous study by Agam B. Bansal et al<sup>4</sup> where

the knowledge level was 65.5%. A minimum sample size of 90 was required to study at confidence level of 90%.

- A pre tested semi structured questionnaire was used which comprised of four section. Section A depicted demographic profile of students, Section B contained questionnaire regarding knowledge, Section C contained questionnaire regarding attitude while Section D had questionnaire regarding knowledge.

**RESULTS;**

**Table I; DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR DEMOGRAPHIC PROPHILE**

VARIABLES	NUMBERS	
AGE (IN YEARS)	<20	14
	20-34	86
SEX	MALE	26
	FEMALE	74
RELIGION	HINDU	88
	JAIN	11
	SIKH	1
SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS	UPPER	2
	UPPER- MIDDLE	17
	MIDDLE	31
	LOWER- MIDDLE	37
	LOWER	13
TOTAL	100	

Majority of students i.e. 74% were females, and 86% were belonged to 20-34 year age group, 88% were Hindu and majority of them belonged to middle class.

**TABLE 2; KNOWLEDGE OF CERVICAL CARCINOMA, ATTITUDE TOWARDS IT AND RELATED PRACTICE**

ASSEMENT OF KAP		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	VALUE	( $\chi^2$ test-Value)
KNOWLEDGE	GOOD	12(79.4%)	3(20.6%)	15(15%)	0.0678 at +/- 2 SD	5.3802
	AVERAGE	4(7.5%)	49(92.4%)	53 (53.1%)		
	POOR	10(31.2%)	22(68.7%)	32 (31.9%)		
	TOTAL	26(73.1%)	74(26.9%)	100		

<b>ATTITUDE</b>	<b>POSITIVE/ AGREE</b>	21(27%)	57(73.03%)	78(78.5%)	<b>0.993</b> at +/- 2 SD	<b>0.014</b>
	<b>NEGATIVE/ DISAGREE</b>	3(26.3%)	12(73.7%)	15(14.6%)		
	<b>INDIFFERENT/ UNDECIDED/ HAVING NO KNOWLEDGE</b>	2(27.8%)	5(72.2%)	7(6.9%)		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	26	74	100		
<b>PRACTICE</b>	<b>YES/ GOOD/ POSITIVE</b>	22(27.1%)	59 (72.9%)	81(80.7%)	<b>0.98</b> at +/- 2 SD	<b>0.0284</b>
	<b>NO/ BAD/ NEGATIVE</b>	2(25.8%)	10(74.2%)	12 (11.9%)		
	<b>INDIFFERENT/ UNDECIDED/ HAVING NO KNOWLEDGE</b>	2(26.3%)	5(73.7%)	7(7.3%)		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	26	74	100		

- Mean score of knowledge depicts that majority of students (53.1%) had an average level of knowledge, 31.9% had poor level of knowledge and remaining 15% students had good knowledge.
- Attitude towards vaccination depicts that 78% students had positive attitude followed by 15% students who had negative attitude, while 81% followed good practice.
- There was no significant difference between male and female medical students.

hospital-based cross-sectional study. J Nat Sc Biol Med 2015;6:324  
 5. Hafizur Rahman, Sumit Kar Knowledge, attitudes and practice toward cervical cancer screening among Sikkimese nursing staff in India Indian J Med Paediatr Oncol. 2015 Apr-Jun;36(2):105-110. doi:10.4103/0971-5851.158840

**TABLE 3; RELATIONSHIP OF PATIENTS' KNOWLEDGE , ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE**

Variables	Attitude		Practice	
	r	R <sup>2</sup>	R	R <sup>2</sup>
Knowledge	0.34	0.12	0.35	0.12
Attitude	-	-	0.96	0.93

- There was positive but weak association between knowledge and attitude and and attitude and practice.

**CONCLUSION**

- 81.4% students wanted to get vaccination, among them only 19.6% students could spend money on vaccination, while 80.3% desired that govt should provide HPV vaccination facility.

**DISCUSSION**

This study is comparable to the study of Hafizur Rahman<sup>5</sup> et al who conducted a study in medical staff to assess awareness of cervical carcinoma. Overall, 90.4% staff responded that they were aware of cancer cervix. Three quarter of the staff were not aware of commonest site being cancer cervix in women. Of the 320 participants, who had heard of cancer cervix, 253 (79.1%) were aware of cancer cervix screening. Pap smear screening should start at 21 years or 3 years after sexual debut was known to only one-third of the nursing staff. Age was found to be a significant predictor of awareness of Pap smear screening among staff.

This study is also comparable to study of Agam B. Bansal<sup>3</sup> who conducted a study in which a total of 442 women were approached for interview of which 400 responded of which two-third (65.5%) had heard of cervical cancer. At least one symptom and one risk factor were known to 35.25% and 39.75% participants. Only 34.5% participants had heard, and 9.5% actually underwent screening test, however, 76.25% of the participants expressed a favorable attitude for screening.

**REFERENCES**

1. Knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) concerning cervical cancer and screening among rural and urban women in six provinces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Tran NT, Choe SI, Taylor R, Ko WS, Pyo HS, So HC. Asian Pac J Cancer Prev. 2011;12(11):3029-33.
2. Knowledge, attitude and practice of cervical cancer screening among women attending gynecology clinics in a tertiary level medical care center in southeastern Nigeria. Mbamara SU, Ikpeze OC, Okonkwo JE, Onyiaorah IV, Ukah CO. J Reprod Med. 2011 Nov-Dec;56(11-12):491-6.
3. Knowledge about cervical cancer, Pap test, and barriers to women's participation in screening in Belgrade, Serbia. Jovanovic V, Mitrovic Jovanovic A, Zivanovic A, Kocic S, Vasiljevic M, Krasic V. Eur J Gynaecol Oncol. 2017; 38(1):69-75.
4. Bansal AB, Pakhare AP, Kapoor N, Mehrotra R, Kokane AM. Knowledge, attitude, and practices related to cervical cancer among adult women: A