



## Knowledge and practice regarding cervical cancer screening among women attending OPD of a tertiary care centre

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### Abstract

*Cervical cancer is one of the few preventable human cancers, as long as it is detected early and managed effectively. In developing countries cervical cancer remains the most common cause of cancer related death among women. In the light of India's rapidly growing population, the overall burden of incidence and mortality of cervical cancer in India is projected to increase by 78 % by the year 2030. It is unacceptable that every two minutes one women dies of cervical cancer where we have proven solutions to prevent and treat disease. 93% of the cases can be prevented if detected early through regular screening and HPV vaccination. With the objective to assess the knowledge and practice regarding cervical cancer screening, a descriptive cross sectional study was conducted among 60 women in the age group of 20 to 50 yrs attending OPD of a tertiary care centre. Structured questionnaire was administered to subjects selected by simple random sampling. 50 % of the subjects were in the age group of 31 to 40 yrs. 42% possessed good knowledge regarding cervical cancer and only 18 of them were aware about screening of cervical cancer. Practice score revealed that only 4 of them have undergone screening test. Study revealed that inspite of good knowledge practice score is negligible.*

**Keywords:** Cervical cancer screening, knowledge, practice, HPV vaccine.

### Introduction

Cervical cancer is the most preventable but the most common cancer among women in reproductive age group. In developing countries cervical cancer is a public health programme. The United Nations Global programme on cervical cancer and prevention throws light to the significance of this global issue. It is the one of the leading cause of cancer mortality, accounting for 17% of all cancer deaths among women aged between 30 and 69 years <sup>(1)</sup>. It is estimated that cervical cancer will occur in approximately 1 in 53 Indian women during their lifetime compared

with 1 in 100 women in more developed regions of the world. <sup>(2)</sup>

### Background of Study

India accounts for about 20% of cervical cancer cases reported from the world. <sup>(3)</sup> More than three-fourth of these patients are diagnosed in advanced stages leading to poor prospects of long term survival and cure. <sup>(4)</sup> Early detection of cervical cancer is possible by cervical screening . It is estimated that cervical cancer will occur in approximately 1 in 53 Indian women during their lifetime compared with 1 in 100 women in more

developed regions of the world<sup>[1]</sup>. 93% of the cases can be prevented if detected early through regular screening and HPV vaccination. Pap smear test is one of the screening test for cervical cancer.

**Method**

A descriptive cross sectional study was conducted on 60 subjects attended OPD of a tertiary care centre selected by simple random sampling technique. Non experimental quantitative research approach was adopted. Structured questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge regarding cervical cancer, screening of cervical cancer and practice towards cervical cancer screening.

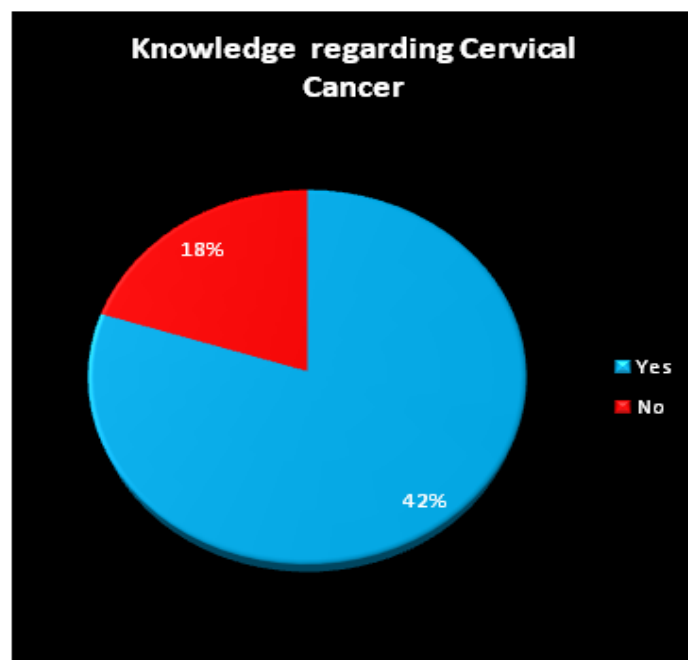
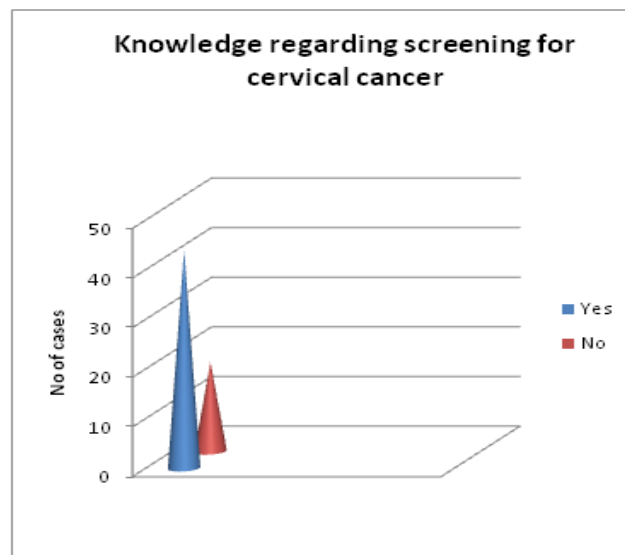
**Result**

Analysis done by descriptive statistics. Majority (50%) of the subjects belonged to age group of 31 to 40yrs 95% of the subjects were married and only 17.5% of the were employed. Only 5% were illiterate. 42% of the subjects had good knowledge 44 subjects were aware about test for cervical cancer screening. Eventhough 42% possessed good knowledge about cervical cancer and screening only 4 of them had got the screening test done.

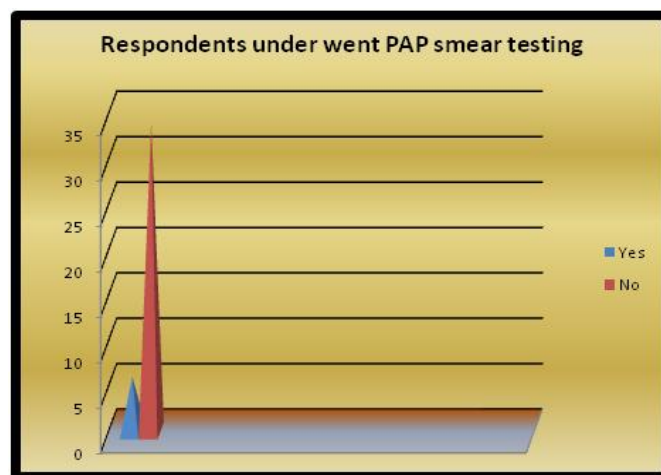
**Table 1:** Sociodemographic Data

n= 60

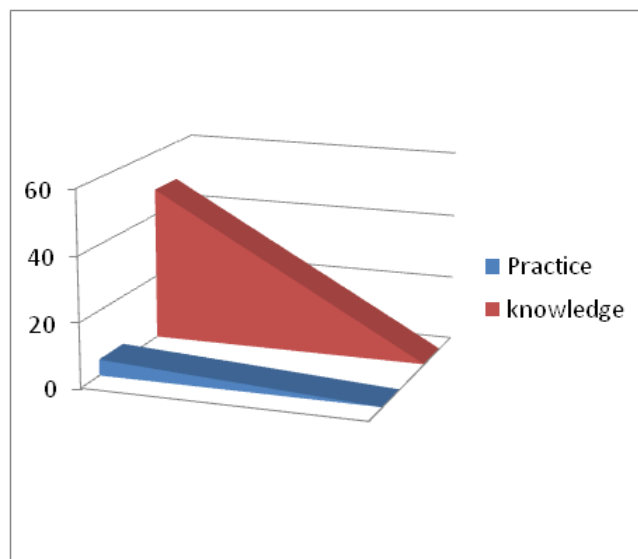
Variables	Category	Number
Age ( years )	20 – 30	17(30)
	31 - 40	30(50)
	41- 50	10(12.5)
Marital status	Single	03(7.5)
	Married	53(95)
Educational status	Illiterate	2(5)
	Primary	23(32.5)
	Secondary and above	35(62.5)
Employment status	Employed	17(17.5)
	Unemployed	43(82.5)
Religion	Hindu	46(77.5)
	Muslim	12(20)
	Sikh	0
	Christian	02(2.1)
Type of Family	Nuclear	35(62.5)
	Joint	25(37.5)



**Fig 1:** Knowledge score



**Fig 2:** Practice Score



**Fig 3:** Comparison of knowledge and Practice score.

### Conclusion

Cancer of the cervix is the third most common cancer accounting for 2% of all new cases of cancer in females with estimated 1.04 lakh cases during 2020. Cervical cancer screening is a great way of reducing the risk of cervical cancer. The study highlights the knowledge and practice regarding screening of cervical cancer among women in age group of 20-50 years attending OPD in a tertiary care centre. The study concluded that even though women have good knowledge regarding cervical cancer and its screening practice is negligible

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