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Prevalence and associated factors of cervical cancer screening among somali women in an urban settlement in Kenya

Michael Habtu Fissehaye
Mount Kenya University, Kenya

Background: In Kenya, cervical cancer is ranked as the most frequent cancer among women with about 4,802 new cases being diagnosed and approximately 2,451 lives lost to it. Screening by Pap smear facilitates early detection, prompt treatment and consequently reduces mortality from cervical cancer. Though cervical screening services exist in Kenya, there is still high mortality rate due to cervical cancer.

Objective: To determine prevalence and associated factors of cervical cancer screening among Somali women in Eastleigh, Nairobi, Kenya.

Materials and Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted among 104 women selected by multi-stage sampling approach. The data was collected using pretested semi-structured questionnaire. Chi-square test ($p < 0.001$) and odds ratio with corresponding 95% confidence interval were used to determine the association between screening and independent variables. Multivariate analysis was performed to determine predictors of cervical cancer screening.

Results: The study revealed that only 32.7% of the women had Pap smear test. Multiple logistic regression revealed the following factors as independent predictors of Pap smear test: awareness on the use of Pap smear test (AOR=4.48; 95% CI:1.16-17.29; $p=0.03$), perceived susceptibility to cervical cancer (AOR=18.41; 95% CI: 4.88-69.43; $p < 0.001$) and no perceived embarrassment of Pap smear test (AOR=12.02; 95% CI: 2.75- 52.48; $p=0.001$).

Conclusion: Based on our findings special emphasis should be directed at increasing awareness and perception about cervical screening as well as susceptibility of cervical cancer at all primary health care points through a well designed health education programme.

mhabtu@mku.ac.ke

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