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Knowledge regarding Pap smear among staff nurses and nursing students in Narayana medical college hospital, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

Background: The Papanicolaou test or Pap smear is a cytological study that is effective in detecting precancerous and cancerous cells from the cervix (Adam 2002). Pap smear screening is a test for cervical cancer cells spread from the opening of the cervix and examined under microscope. Cervical cancer screening is an essential part of women's routine health care. It is a way to detect abnormal cervical cells including precancerous cervical lesions as well as early cervical cancer. Cervical cancer screening includes two types of screening test.

Aim: The aim of the study was to assess the knowledge regarding wound dressing among nurses and nursing students.

Objectives: 1. To assess the level of knowledge regarding pap smear among staff nurses and student nurses.

2. To compare the level of knowledge between staff nurses and student nurses regarding Pap smear.

3. To find out the association between level of knowledge regarding Pap smear among staff nurses and student nurses with selected socio demographic variables.

Methodology: 30 staff nurses and 30 student nurses working in NMCH, Nellore were selected by using Non-probability convenience sampling technique method.

Results: Regarding the level of knowledge among nurses, 8(26.7%) had inadequate knowledge, 12(40%) had moderately adequate knowledge and 10(33.3%) had adequate knowledge. Among student nurses, 6(20%) had inadequate knowledge, 18(60%) were had moderately adequate knowledge and 6(20%) had adequate knowledge regarding Pap smear.

Keywords: Knowledge, Pap smear, staff nurses, student nurses

Introduction

The Papanicolaou test or Pap smear is a cytological study that is effective in detecting precancerous and cancerous cells from the cervix (Adam 2002). Pap smear screening is a test for cervical cancer cells spread from the opening of the cervix and examined under microscope. Cervical cancer screening is an essential part of women's routine health care. It is a way to detect abnormal cervical cells including precancerous cervical lesions as well as early cervical cancer. Cervical cancer screening includes two types of screening test. Cytology based screening known as Pap test or Pap smear and HPV screening. The Pap test can also find noncancerous condition such as infections and inflammation. It can also find cancer cells^[1].

The Pap smear is not for diagnosing cancer but rather for finding early changes which might become cancer. A pap smear only takes a few minute. No drugs or anesthetics are required and it can be done by a general practitioner, nurse or women's health worker. The Pap smear does not check for other problems in the reproductive system including ovarian cancer. It is not a sexually transmitted infection^[2].

Health care providers vary in their recommendations for the frequency of routine Pap test. The American cancer society (ACS) advises all women to begin having an annual pap test within 3 years of becoming sexually active or by 21 years of age. Pap test may be performed less frequently until 65 years of age^[3].

Need for the study

According to WHO, cervical cancer, endometrial cancer both these are a danger to the growth of our society. The women nurtured need to be protected from the danger. Worldwide cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer for overall. There were an estimated 266,000 deaths from cervical cancer in 2018^[4].

Worldwide approximately 500,000 new cases of cervical cancer and 274,000 deaths are attributable to cervical cancer yearly. In fact that the incidence of cervical cancer in the United States has decreased from 14.8 cases per 100,000 women in 1975 to only 6.5 cases per 100,000 women in 2006. Although worldwide cervical cancer rates have decrease dramatically with the increase in screening effort. Approximately 80% of all cervical cancer deaths occur in developing world^[5].

Cervical cancer is the most common form of cancer among Indian females. Usually 70% or more of these cases present in stages three or higher at the time of diagnosis. It is estimated that in India 126,000 new cases of cervical cancer occur annually^[6].

In India the prevalence of cervical cancer is more common in comparatively younger age group at prevent throughout the globe about 12.7 million are suffering from cervical cancer. In 2012 approximately 27000 women died from cervical cancer more than 85% of these deaths occurring in low middle income countries^[7].

In Andhra Pradesh the prevalence of Pap smear abnormalities in HIV seropositive women has found to be 7.17% which was a twofold increased risk as compared to the general population. Narayana Medical Hospital during 2008 to 2009 about 400 women were affected Pap smear and 17% of them were to have dysplasia, which were adequately treated^[8].

Statement of the problem

A study to assess the knowledge regarding pap smear among staff nurses and nursing students in Narayana Medical College Hospital, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.

Objectives

- To assess the level of knowledge regarding pap smear among staff nurses and student nurses
- To compare the level of knowledge between staff nurses and student nurses regarding pap smear
- To find out the association between level of knowledge regarding pap smear among staff nurses and student nurses with selected socio demographic variables

Delimitations

- Nurses working in Narayana medical college hospital, Nellore
- Nursing students posted at Narayana Medical College Hospital, Nellore
- Sample size of 60

Methodology

Research approach

A quantitative approach was adopted to determine the research study.

Research design

The present study was conducted by using descriptive research design

Setting of the study

The study was conducted at Narayana Medical College Hospital, Nellore.

Target population

The target population for the present study includes all nurses and student nurses.

Accessible population

The accessible population for the present study was nurses and student nurses working in Narayana Medical College Hospital, Nellore and who fulfilled the inclusion criteria.

Sample

The sample for the present study was nurses and student nurses working in Narayana Medical College Hospital, Nellore.

Sample size

The samples consist of 60, which includes, 30 staff nurses and 30 student nurses.

Sampling technique

Non-probability convenience sampling technique was adapted for the study.

Criteria for sampling selection

Inclusion criteria

- Staff nurses and student nurses who are working in NMCH, Nellore.
- Staff nurses who are willing to participate in the study.
- Students who are willing to participate in the study.

Exclusion criteria

- Staff and student nurses who was sick at the time of data collection.
- Staff and student nurses who was not available at the time of data collection.

Description of tool

Part-I: Socio demographic variables of staff nurses and student nurses: It consists of staff nurses includes Age, Sex, Educational status, area of working, Year of experience, Source of information and attended any CNE or workshop.

Part-II: It deals with socio demographic variable of student nurses such as Age, Qualification and source of information.

Part-III: This consists of structured questionnaire to determine the knowledge regarding Pap smear.

Table 1: Score interpretation

Level of Knowledge	Score
Inadequate Knowledge (0-12)	<50%
Average Knowledge (13-24)	51-70%
Good Knowledge (25-36)	>70%

Data Analysis and discussion

Table 1: Frequency distribution of level of knowledge among staff nurses and student nurses. (N=60)

Level of knowledge	Staff nurses		Student nurses	
	(F)	(%)	(F)	(%)
Inadequate	8	26.7	6	20
Moderately adequate	12	40	18	60
Adequate	10	33.3	6	20
Total	30	100	30	100

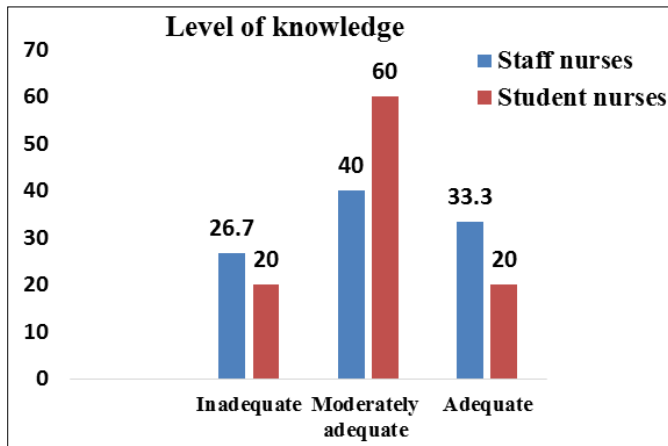


Fig 1: Frequency distribution of level of knowledge among staff nurses and student nurses

Tab 2: Comparison of mean and standard deviation of knowledge score between staff nurses and student nurses. (N=60)

Level of knowledge	Mean	SD
Staff nurses	31.3	8.91
Student nurses	29.2	6.62

Major findings of the study

- Regarding the level of knowledge among nurses, 8(26.7%) had inadequate knowledge, 12(40%) had moderately adequate knowledge and 10(33.3%) had adequate knowledge. Among student nurses, 6(20%) had inadequate knowledge, 18(60%) were had moderately adequate knowledge and 6(20%) had adequate knowledge regarding Pap smear.
- The mean knowledge score of nurses was 31.3 and standard deviation was 8.91. And the mean knowledge score of student nurses was 29.2 and standard deviation was 6.62.
- Regarding association, Age and year of study had significant association with level of knowledge at $P < 0.05$ level.

Conclusion

The study concluded that majority of the nurses, 12(40%) had moderate knowledge and student nurses 18(60%) had moderately adequate knowledge regarding Pap smear.

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