



Research Article

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Knowledge of Nursing Students Regarding HPV Vaccination

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Abstract

Cervical cancer is the fifth most common cancer in human and the second most common cancer in women worldwide. Cervical cancer constitutes the major cause for mortality in the developing countries. Sexually transmitted Human Papilloma virus infection is the most important risk factor for the cervical cancer. **Aims and Objectives:** The study aim to find the knowledge of nursing students regarding HPV vaccination. **Approach and design:** In the study descriptive study approach was used. **Sampling and sampling criteria:** 60 nursing students between age 19-24 years in selected colleges in Mysuru were selected using non-probability convenience sampling technique. **Tools and techniques:** Structured knowledge questionnaire was used to collect data. The data were collected and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. **Result:** Result revealed that maximum number of nursing students 25(41.66%) having average knowledge, 35(58.33%) having poor knowledge regarding HPV vaccination. Chi-square analysis revealed that the knowledge of nursing students had no significant association with their personal variables. **Conclusion:** It was concluded that more teaching is required to improve the knowledge about HPV vaccination. The nursing curriculum should give more emphasis on cervical cancer and its prevention, so that the nurses can act as an advocate to bridge the gap in the acceptance and practice of HPV vaccination.

Keywords: HPV vaccination, Nursing students and knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Cervical cancer is a malignancy arising from cells originating in the cervix. Human papilloma virus (HPV) infection is the major factor contributing to the development of cervical cancer. The worldwide incidence of cervical cancer is around 510,000 and approximate mortality due to cervical cancer is 288,000 worldwide. Unlike other cancers, cervical cancer occurs early and affects the fertile period of the women's life. The incidence rises 30 to 34 years of age and reaches to the highest at 55 to 65 years, with a median age of 38 years.

The cumulative lifetime risk for the development of cervical cancer among Indian women is 2.5% and cumulative death risk is about 1.4% from cervical cancer. At any given point of time, about 6.6% of women harbor cervical HPV infection. HPV serotypes 16 and 18 causes nearly 76.7% of cervical cancer in India.

The world health organization (WHO) and other health institutions recommends to introduce HPV vaccine as part of a national cervical cancer control programme in countries where it is feasible and cost-effective and the vaccine can be administered to adolescent girls effectively. The prophylactic Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccines can be used as a powerful tools for primary prevention of cervical cancer and other HPV-associated diseases. As HPV vaccination and HPV-related cancers is an emerging field of medical science, more research is needed especially on the long-term impact of vaccination, duration of protection and reduction of HPV transmission.

Problem Statement: Knowledge of Nursing Students Regarding HPV Vaccination

Objectives:

1. To assess the level of knowledge of nursing students regarding HPV vaccination in selected Nursing Colleges in Mysuru.
2. To find the association between knowledge of nursing students regarding HPV vaccination and their selected personal variables.

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Hypothesis:

The following hypothesis is tested at the 0.05 level of significance

H₁: There will be significant association between the knowledge of nursing students regarding HPV vaccination with their selected personal variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Descriptive survey approach was used to conduct the study. 60 Samples were selected using the non-probability convenience sampling technique. Structured questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge among nursing students regarding HPV vaccination. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data.

RESULTS**Frequency and percentage distribution of selected personal variables**

Majority of the Nursing students 23(38.33%) were in the age group of less than 20 years, majority 52(86.66%) were females, 20(33.33%) of nursing students each were from 2nd year, 3rd year, and 4th year BSc nursing, majority 28(46.66%) were from urban area and majority 39(65%) of samples belongs to Christian religion.

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Level of Knowledge of Nursing Students Regarding HPV Vaccination. (n=60)

Level of Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Good	0	0
Average	25	41.66
Poor knowledge	35	58.33

The data presented in Table 2 shows that majority of the samples 35(58.33%) had poor knowledge and 25(41.66%) had average knowledge regarding HPV vaccination.

Table 2: Mean, Median, Range and Standard Deviation of Knowledge Scores of Nursing Students Regarding HPV Vaccination. (n= 60)

Nursing students	Mean	Median	Range	SD
Knowledge scores	8.45	11	4-16	±3.54

The mean knowledge scores of nursing students regarding HPV vaccination was 8.45, with SD standard deviation of ±3.54. The score ranged from 4 to 16.

Association Between the Knowledge of Nursing Students Regarding HPV Vaccination among BSc Nursing Students and their Personal Variables.

There was no statistically significant association found between the knowledge of nursing students regarding HPV vaccination and their selected personal variables.

DISCUSSION

Findings of the present study revealed that majority of the nursing students 35(58.33%) had poor knowledge and 25(41.66%) had average knowledge regarding HPV vaccination. The mean knowledge scores of nursing students regarding HPV vaccination was 8.45 and the score ranged from 4 to 16. The above study findings indicate the need for organizing various awareness programs for BSc Nursing students regarding HPV vaccination.

Similar findings were reported in study conducted among 322 students in a tertiary care hospital in south Karnataka to assess the knowledge attitude and practice towards HPV vaccination. The result revealed that majority of the student are lacking knowledge regarding HPV vaccination and cervical cancer prevention. The study concluded that more awareness program is required to increase the awareness and acceptability of HPV vaccination.

Even though cervical cancer can be prevented, according to the most recent data it is the fourth most common cancer among women globally. It is estimated that each year there are nearly 528,000 new cases and more than 266,000 deaths from cervical cancer. More than 85% of all new cases and deaths occur in the underdeveloped countries due to the unavailability of the routine cervical cancer screening and treatment facilities. Failure to implement cervical cancer prevention and control measures successfully can lead to an increase in the incidence of cervical cancer. By 2030, approximately 800,000 new cases of cervical cancer will be diagnosed annually and majority of these cases will be in developing countries.

Integrating knowledge and awareness programs as educational intervention along with HPV vaccination will be an effective strategy in reducing HPV infection and also in the prevention and control of cervical cancer among Indian women.

CONCLUSION

The present study reflects that the nursing students had poor knowledge regarding HPV vaccination. Hence there is an urgent need to sensitize the nursing students about early detection of precancerous lesions and subsequently its prevention by immunizing with HPV vaccination. So the nursing students can act as an advocate to bridge the gap in the acceptance and practice of HPV vaccination.

As far as HPV vaccination is concerned, educating health-care professionals especially the nurses on how to communicate with parents to encourage HPV vaccination would greatly enhance the uptake. The government also needs to take an initiative to include the HPV vaccine in the National Immunization program so that the disease can be controlled and the mortality rate due to cervical cancer can be reduced especially in developing countries.

Conflict of Interest: There are no conflicts of interest.

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