

Knowledge of cervical cancer and its socio-demographic determinants among women in an urban community of North-Central Nigeria

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Background: Cervical cancer is the second most common malignancy in women worldwide with a high incidence in developing countries and Nigeria is one of these countries. Despite this, majority of the women in these countries have poor knowledge of cervical cancer.

Aims/Objectives: This study aimed at assessing the knowledge of symptoms and risk factors for cervical cancer among women in Olufadi community, Kwara State, North-Central Nigeria.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study involving women aged 25-64 years. Respondents were selected through systematic sampling of households. Interviewer-administered pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Data was analyzed using SPSS version 15.

Results: Only 59 (29.5%) respondents had some knowledge of symptoms of cervical cancer with 9 (4.5%) of them having good knowledge. Also, 53 (26.5%) had appreciable knowledge of the risk factors with only 20 (10.0%) of them demonstrating good knowledge. Age of respondents, age at marriage and attainment of tertiary education were significant predictors of knowledge of cervical cancer among the respondents.

Conclusion: The poor knowledge of cervical cancer demonstrated by respondents in this study underscores the need for urgent community mobilization and use of educational resources to disseminate information on cervical cancer.

Keywords: Knowledge, Cervical cancer, Nigeria.

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P53 gene alterations in bovine urinary bladder tumors

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P⁵³ is a tumor suppressor gene which is frequently mutated in tumors of animals and human beings malignancies, especially in urinary bladder tumors of human beings. Urinary bladder tumors occur in cattle with bovine enzootic haematuria (BEH). The goal of this study was evaluation of P53 alterations in 15 samples of different bovine urinary bladder tumors by PCR-SSCP method. Fifteen paraffin wax-embedded blocks were selected from different kinds of bovine urinary bladder tumors. DNA was extracted from the samples and PCR was done by using specified primers for 5 to 8 exons and after electrophoresis, the PCR products were assessed by SSCP method. Samples with changes in electrophoresis patterns were selected and sequenced. There were not any changes in electrophoretic pattern in limit of exons 5 to 8, but in each side of designed primers for exon 6 there were some part of the introns 5 and 6. After sequencing the samples including haemangima, papilloma and carcinoma *in situ*, with electrophoretic changes, showed nucleotide T deletion with number 9332 in intron 6. Although at this study any mutation were not observed in exons 5 to 8 but for the first time the intronic mutations of P53 gene in urinary bladder tumors of cattle have been reported. Intronic mutations can predispose for developing of cancers, therefore further analysis of intronic mutations of P53 gene will be needed to determine P53 intronic mutations roles in development of urinary bladder tumors in cattle with BEH.

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