

19th Global Nursing Education Conference

April 27-28, 2017 Las Vegas, USA

The effects of an educational intervention on preventing cervical cancer among Vietnamese women in Southern Taiwan

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Background: Not receiving regular Pap tests is the most important risk factor for cervical cancer. The National Healthcare Insurance program in Taiwan requires that foreigners with residence permits staying in Taiwan for more than 6 months be insured in accordance with the law and should be offered free annual Pap tests above 30 years of age. However, statistics showed that, between 2011 and 2013, less than 60% of Vietnamese women in Taiwan due to transnational marriages had received one or more Pap tests within the past 3 years.

Purpose: This paper aims to conduct and evaluate an educational intervention on preventing cervical cancer among married immigrant women of Vietnamese origin.

Method: The study design was a quasi-experimental method with two groups. In total, 260 married immigrant women of Vietnamese origin with national health insurance at least 30 years of age were recruited from November 2013-January 2015 in southern Taiwan. The effects of the educational intervention, including cervical cancer and Papanicolaou test knowledge, attitudes towards cervical cancer, fatalism, barriers to receiving Papanicolaou tests, intention for receiving Papanicolaou tests within the next year, and intention for receiving Papanicolaou tests within the next three years were evaluated.

Results: Repeated-measure analyses of variance showed significant interactions between the intervention group and time for cervical cancer knowledge, knowledge of Papanicolaou test, attitudes towards cervical cancer, and intention for receiving a Papanicolaou test within the next three years; in addition, 71.4% reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the intervention.

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