

Awareness Regarding Cervical Cancer and Hpv Vaccine Among Medical Students: a Cross-Sectional Study

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Abstract:

Background & Method: This study was conducted with an aim to awareness regarding cervical cancer and hpv vaccine among medical students: a cross-sectional study. There were 150 medical students between 19-25. years who participated in the study, out of which 60 were males and 90 were females. Participants are requested to complete a 15 point questionnaire regarding cervical malignancy, hpv infection and hpv vaccine. The questionnaire was distributed utilizing an electronic format, through google forms. The link to the survey was shared with medical students.

Result: 80% of the students knew the correct incidence of cervical cancer in my study. 76% out of 150 students implicated hpv as a causative agent of cervical cancer but majority (36.5%) did not know about its association with other cancers. According to 35% students, hpv infection spreads by sexual as well as non-sexual route but 65% said that it only spreads sexually. 74% of them answered that all cases of hpv infections progress to cervical cancer. None of them knew the time of progression and 65% were of the opinion that condoms prevent hpv infection and they did not know whether hpv infection is treatable or not.

Conclusion: This study highlights insufficient knowledge about cc and its screening among medical students. despite the limited awareness about the hpv vaccine. among the study's participants, there is a favorable. opinion towards the introduction of the vaccine . More emphasis should be placed on the medical curriculum taught in undergraduate education. suitable educational campaigns should be stratified at hospitals along with workshops and seminars which highlight the importance of cc screening in women and increase the awareness about hpv among physicians.

Keywords: awareness cervical cancer, hpv & students.

Study Designed: Observational Study.

1. INTRODUCTION

Carcinoma cervix(cc) is the commonest gynecological cancer in women worldwide and more in developing countries. Incidence has decreased significantly in developed world due to routine screening by pap smear and availability of hpv vaccines[1]. Therefore it is a preventable cancer by hpv vaccination, screening and early treatment. Cervical cancer develops at younger age group[2]. CC is caused by the human papilloma virus (hpv-99.7%);

hpv-16 (57%) and hpv-18(16%) and rest are caused by other hpv strains (31,33,35,45,58 and others) [3].

CC is a major public health issue in india which creates the need to spread awareness among the female population regarding its risk factors and preventive measures[4].

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

1. To assess the awareness about hpv virus infection as causative factor for cervical cancer.
2. To assess the knowledge about availability of hpv vaccination.
3. To assess the attitude towards getting vaccinated.
4. To assess the vaccination status among the medical students surveyed.

2. MATERIAL & METHOD

Present study was conducted at index medical college hospital & research centre, Indore November 2021 medical students of 2nd and 3rd year.

The study was approved by the institutional ethics committee and informed consent was obtained from all the participants before the commencement of the study.

There were 150 medical students between 19-25. years who participated in the study, out of which 60 were males and 90 were females. participants are requested to complete a 15 point questionnaire regarding cervical malignancy, hpv infection and hpv vaccine. the questionnaire was distributed utilizing an electronic format, through google forms. the link to the survey was shared with medical students.

The knowledge of the students about cc was evaluated using multiple choice questions or one liner questions with 15 statements related to disease etiology, risk factors, clinical features, and screening recommendations according to the world health organization (who).

Each answer was scored as incorrect or correct. the respondent was given a zero point for each wrong answer and one point for each correct answer.

The total knowledge score was calculated for each participant out of 15. participants were categorized to have poor, moderate, and good knowledge if their score was 0-3,4-9, and 10-15 respectively.

3. RESULTS

Fig No.1

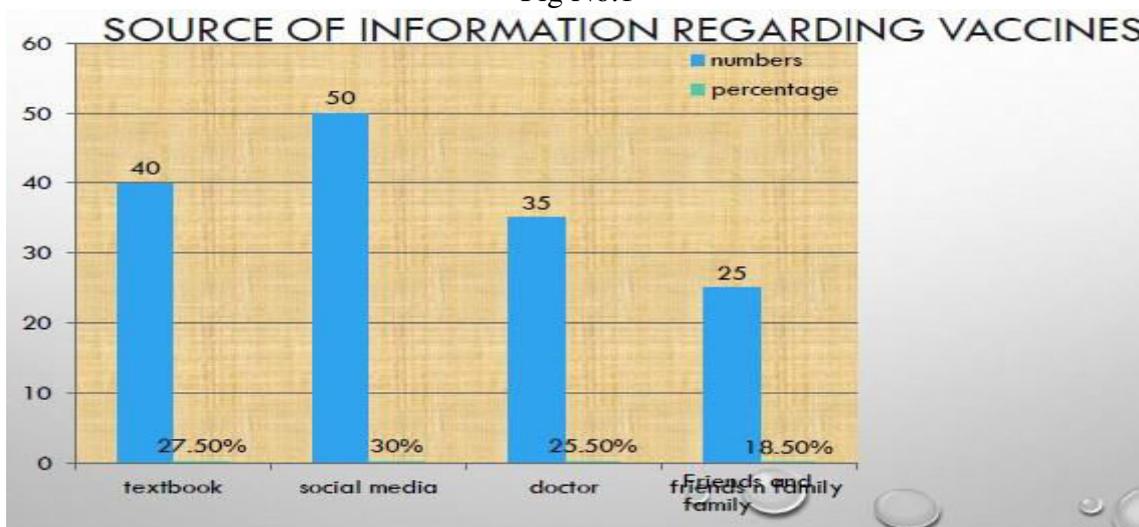


Fig No.2

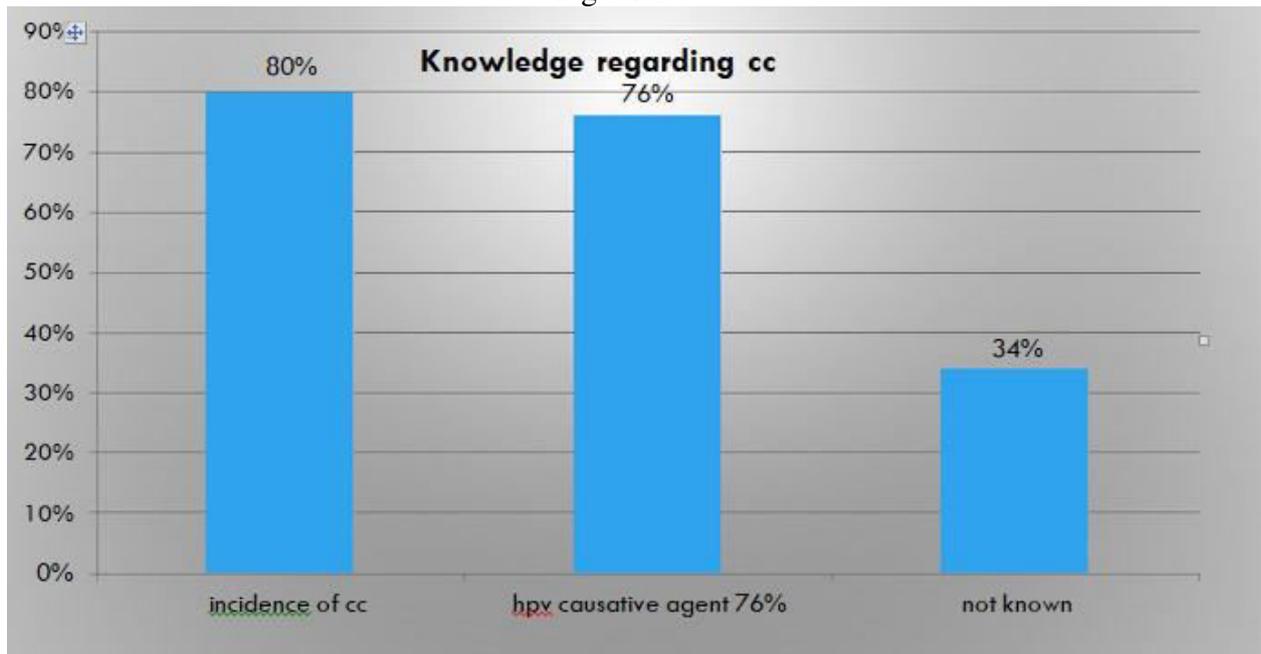
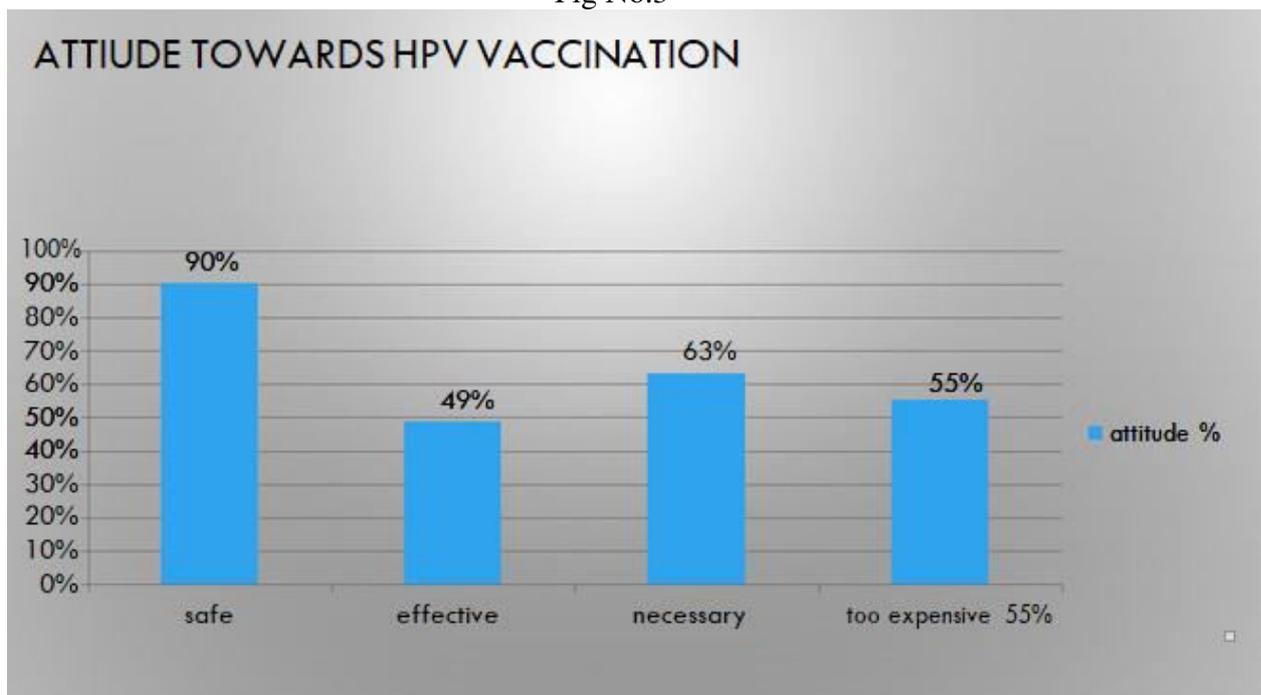


Fig No.3



Sociodemographic features-

- The study included 150 medical students with the age group of 19–25 years, predominantly mbbs 2ndyr and 3rd yr students.
- Among them, 60 (46.7%) were males and 90 (53.3%) were females were studying in 2nd and 3rd year.
- The ages ranged from 19-25years and most of them were 20 and 21years. Knowledge regarding hpv
- The answers were analyzed by the senior faculty members conducting the study.
- 80% of the students knew the correct incidence of cervical cancer in my study.

- 76% out of 150 students implicated hpv as a causative agent of cervical cancer but majority (36.5%) did not know about its association with other cancers.
- According to 35% students, hpv infection spreads by sexual as well as non-sexual route but 65% said that it only spreads sexually.
- 74% of them answered that all cases of hpv infections progress to cervical cancer.
- None of them knew the time of progression and 65% were of the opinion that condoms prevent hpv infection and they did not know whether hpv infection is treatable or not.

4. DISCUSSION

The development of hpv vaccine represents a huge advancement in the fight against cervical cancer[5].The study looks at the awareness and attitude of our medical college students towards hpv and its vaccine.The medical students did not know the incidence of cervical cancer in India, but they could relate its association with cervical cancer[6].

Our present study we have observed that the level of awareness about hpv and hpv vaccine was very low.The lack of knowledge may be due to the fact that the hpv infection is mainly asymptomatic and in 90% of cases the infection clears off without treatment[7].

The study by durusoy, et al., on hpv vaccine awareness and willingness of first-year students entering university in western turkey revealed that the knowledge amongst them was remarkably poor and only 11.6% of females intended to be vaccinated[8].

5. CONCLUSION

This study highlights insufficient knowledge about cc and its screening among medical students. Despite the limited awareness about the hpv vaccine. Among the study's participants, there is a favorable. Opinion towards the introduction of the vaccine.

More emphasis should be placed on the medical curriculum taught in undergraduate education. Suitable educational campaigns should be stratified at hospitals along with workshops and seminars which highlight the importance of cc screening in women and increase the awareness about hpv among physicians.

Medical students who are the future health care providers can educate their patients, address their sensitive cultural concerns, and later increase the health seeking behavior in women especially if they are properly aware of cc and hence its burden reduced.

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