Global Health in Nigeria: A Focus on Cervical Cancer

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Cervical cancer is the second highest cause of cancer deaths in African women.

However, the disease can be prevented because it has a long pre-clinical phase that can be detected by screening.

Lesions detected at screening can be effectively treated.

Current methods of screening include detection of high-risk Human Papilloma Virus (hrHPV) infection in cervico-vaginal swabs.

High income countries (HIC) have implemented cervical cancer screening programs with excellent results.
Background

- Low and middle income countries (LMIC) have been unable to replicate the successes of HIC and face numerous barriers.
- One of these barriers is related to attendance at health care facilities for screening.
- Self-collection and submission of cervico-vaginal samples have been promoted as effective methods of increasing uptake of cervical cancer screening in LMIC.
- However concern has been raised about the ability of women in LMIC to successfully implement self-collection.
- It has been suggested that culturally sensitive education may increased the confidence of LMIC women in their ability to do self-sampling.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study aims</th>
<th>Aim 1: Determine the baseline knowledge and attitude of Nigerian women to self-collection of cervico-vaginal samples for HPV DNA based testing for cervical cancer screening.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Determine</td>
<td>Aim 2: Evaluate the impact of educational intervention on the uptake of self-collection of cervico-vaginal samples for HPV DNA based testing for cervical cancer screening in Nigerian women.</td>
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Intervention

Objective of intervention:

2. To facilitate HPV screening via the self-collection process
3. To determine possible HPV presence and referral for subsequent medical follow-up, if necessary.
Testing of Educational Materials

▶ Four separate focus groups were conducted at Wuse and Garki General Hospitals

▶ Each focus group was composed of 10-12 women, who provided input on the recognition, familiarity, and acceptability of the educational material content.

▶ Final revisions were made, based on focus group recommendations.
Cervical Cancer Educational Flyer
Prevent Cervical Cancer
Find out about the

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

What is HPV?
Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus that infects people in a variety of ways including during sex and other types of contacts.

HPV Types
There are more than 100 different types. Most types are harmless while others can cause abnormal changes and diseases in the part of the body where they persist.

How can one get HPV?
HPV infection can be passed from one person to another through intimate contact with someone who has HPV including through vaginal, oral, or anal sex.

Health Effects of HPV infections
Most HPV infections are harmless and will disappear on their own. When infection persists, depending on the type of HPV present, it may cause warts or bumps on the skin of the face, hands, feet, genital and anal areas. Infection by high risk types can cause cancer of the mouth of the womb (cervix) in women or cancer of the private parts, anus, mouth or throat in both men and women. People with weak immune systems, for example HIV infection, have a harder time fighting off health problems from HPV.

Diagnosing HPV infections and associated diseases
HPV infections can be detected either by testing for the presence of the virus or by looking for evidence of abnormal changes it causes.

For screening, the mouth of the womb, Rep smear or Visual Inspection after applying Acetic Acid can be used to search for changes caused by HPV. In the mouth of the womb and other areas, direct testing for the presence of HPV can also be done. Screening tests for cancer of the mouth of the womb usually starts at 30 years of age for most women. For other women, doctors may recommend starting earlier.

There are currently no approved screening guidelines for other diseases caused by HPV. But, if doctors suspect that someone has these diseases, they can test for them directly.
Self-Collection Instruction Guide
Methods

- Pre-Intervention Survey

- Intervention
  - Three educational brochures
    1. Cervical cancer
    2. HPV
    3. Evalyn Brush Self-Collection

- Participant Self-Collection

- Post-Intervention Survey

- Follow-up: Result notification, within 30 days

Our Research Team
In the field

- University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, University in Gwagwalada, Nigeria
Initial Observations

- General interest and study participation was very high. 220 participants were recruited in four days to participate in the study.

- It would be interesting to determine whether the participation was due to the remuneration, general interest, or a combination of both.
Data entry

Data has been entered into REDCap

Data quality assurance checks have been completed
Next Steps

Data analysis via Atlas.ti®

Publication
One day with the traditional birthing attendants
Acknowledgements

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You are welcome!
Abuja, Nigeria