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### **Unlocking the power of Prevention: Cervical cancer knowledge, awareness, and screening among women**

#### **Abstract:**

Cervical cancer is a significant public health concern worldwide, with a high incidence and mortality rate in developing countries. Screening is an effective method for early detection and prevention of cervical cancer. However, lack of awareness and inadequate knowledge about cervical cancer and its screening are major barriers to its control. The objective of this study was to assess the knowledge and awareness of cervical cancer among women. To evaluate the screening practices and barriers to screening among women. A cross-sectional study was carried out with 122 female participants. A structured questionnaire was administered to gather data pertaining to demographic characteristics, knowledge, awareness, and screening practices regarding cervical cancer. Data analysis was done by SPSS. The mean age was  $29.01 \pm 1.89$ . Out of total, 68 (55.7%) were from metropolitan areas and 54 (44.2%) were from rural ones. Education level was intermediate, 14 (11.4%) graduation 39 (31.9%), and above 63 (51.6%). Out of total 51.6% were employed, 30.3% were housewives, and 18.1% were students. 87 (71.3%) had heard about cervical cancer before. 56 (45.9%) knew that cervical cancer is caused by HPV. 40 (32.7%) knew that cervical cancer can be prevented by regular screening and vaccination. This study shows that those who are aware of the signs and symptoms of cervical cancer may attribute the intermenstrual bleeding, dyspareunia, and postcoital bleeding with frequency 35.7%, 28.6%, and 18.8% respectively, were considered by women as the common symptoms of cervical cancer. Only 20.6% of women recognized HPV infection as the cervical cancer cause. About 33.6% and 26.6% of women knew that multiple partners or a partner with multiple partners increase the risk of developing cervical cancer throughout life. However, only 11.2% and 13.8% of women recognized multiparity and early marriage, respectively, as risk factors for cervical cancer. The conclusion of this study emphasizes the need to improve awareness and education about cervical cancer and its prevention among women. The result of this shows that, it can be suggested that demographic factors like age, education, and occupation are correlated to knowledge and screening practices of cervical cancer. Interventions to target awareness and education on cervical can be suggested.

## Biography

With unwavering dedication as a medical professional, I secured my MBBS degree and then I completed FCPS Part 1 exam in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Having successfully completed house job in Gynecology and Obstetrics, General Surgery, Pediatrics, and Internal Medicine, I currently serve as a Postgraduate Resident at Fatima Memorial Hospital in Lahore. I have published nine papers in recognized journals and have presented at various conferences. The aim of my work is to serve the medical community while working toward enhancing patient outcomes.