

## Awareness regarding cervical cancer and its prevention in women attending gynaecological clinic in west Delhi

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### Background

Cervical cancer, although largely preventable, remains the most common cause of cancer mortality among women in low-resource countries. Lack of knowledge and awareness regarding Cervical cancer awareness leads to delay in its detection and hence contribution to considerable mortality. Therefore, the present study was undertaken with the objective to assess knowledge and awareness of cervical cancer prevention among the women attending a gynaecological clinic in west Delhi.

### Methods

A cross sectional study was conducted amongst the first 100 consenting women attending a gynaecological clinic in west Delhi. Their awareness regarding cervical cancer and HPV vaccine was specifically assessed using self administered questionnaire regarding cervical cancer aetiology and prevention. Data was entered in excel and analysed using SPSS 17. p value<0.05 is considered significant.

### Result

Mean age of the respondent was 35years (range 21-71). Most participants were aware that cervical cancer is a major public health concern (89%) but were not able to identify the most important risk factors (37%) and 85% respondents did not know if they were at a risk of developing cervical cancer or not. The women did have knowledge about Pap test (61%) and believed that screening may prevent cervical cancer (58%) and most women were also aware about the HPV vaccine (58%) and 38% respondents believed vaccination helps prevent cervical cancer. Though a large part of the sample did know about the Pap test, there was still a lack of awareness (80%) regarding its role in prevention of cervical cancer. The odds of women in higher age group to get a pap smear done is more as compared to women in younger age group ( $p < .0001$ ).

### Conclusion

Knowledge of cervical cancer and prevention by screening showed several gaps. Creating awareness among women on risk factors and current methods for cervical cancer screening is a necessary step towards implementing effective prevention programs.