

Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) of Cervical Cancer and HPV Vaccine Among Pharmacy and Paramedical Female Students at a Private University (South India).

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Abstract: Aim: The study was aimed to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of cervical cancer and Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination among Pharmacy and Para-Medical students and to find the association between the socio-demographic characters and knowledge related to cervical cancer. Method: A cross-sectional study was carried using a Structured Questionnaire (Developed & Validated) which consists of 3 domains with each 10 questions. Comparisons were made between Pharmacy (Pharm.D, B.Pharmacy) and Paramedical students (B.Sc Nursing & Bachelor of Physiotherapy). The association between the explanatory variables and knowledge is assessed by performing Chi square test (qualitative variables). Results: Pharmacy students possessed greater knowledge than Para-Medical students among which Pharm.D students possessed greater knowledge (73%) than B.Sc Nursing (70%), BPT (64%) and B.Pharm (57%) students. The pattern of positive attitude stands with minor differences among Pharmacy and Para-medical students [Pharm.D- 34%, BSc Nursing- 33%, BPT- 32% and B.Pharm- 31%]. B.Sc Nursing students showed a higher level of practice (42%) than Pharm.D (34%), B.Pharm (34%) and BPT (27%). The p-value for the association between History of

malignancy and Knowledge, Marital status and Knowledge among B.Sc Nursing, BPT, Pharm.D, and B.Pharm students were obtained and no significant association was found. Conclusion: Though the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice stand with minor differences, Para-medical students demonstrated a greater level of Knowledge and clinical practice towards Cervical Cancer, HPV vaccines and Pap test than Pharmacy students. Uptake of screening and Vaccination were found to low among the student population however, the majority were willing to get screened and vaccinated. The development of Institutional based screening and vaccine campaign can be arranged to improve practice among Para-medical students. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

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