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A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING OVARIAN CANCER AMONG WOMEN ATTENDING GYNAECOLOGY OPD WCH, JIPMER

¹ Rency Mol Jaboi, ²Ibadapbiang Shisha Dkhar, ³Jyothi Vidya, ⁴Kanimozhi, ⁵Silpi Kumari
Nursing Tutor

College of Nursing JIPMER, Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry, India

Abstract: Ovarian cancer is the sixth most common cancer and the seventh leading cause of cancer deaths among women worldwide. Descriptive cross-sectional approach was used for this study. The population included all the women above 40 years of age attending in Gynaecology OPD, WCH, JIPMER. The sample of the study was 240 women who fulfilled the inclusion criteria. The data was collected using structured questionnaires. The tool consisted of 2 Parts, Part A: Socio-demographic proforma, Part B: Clinical variables. After the ethical clearance the data was collected for 3 days. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis. All the categorical data were presented on frequencies and percentages. Analysis was carried out in SPSS version 22.0 (SPSS-Statistical Package for Social Science version 22.0). All statistical analysis has been carried out at 5% level of significance and p-value <0.05 was considered significant. The result of the study among 240 samples of women above 40 years of age in gynaecology OPD WCH, JIPMER showed that majority of the participant 76.6%(184) had inadequate knowledge, only 17% (41) of them had moderately adequate knowledge, 5.8% (14) had adequate knowledge and 0.4% (1) had excellent knowledge. Among Socio demographic variables there is association between education and income of the participants with the level of knowledge. The present study assessed the level of knowledge among women above 40 years of age attending gynecological OPD, WCH, JIPMER. It was found that majority of them had inadequate knowledge regarding ovarian cancer. Hence the study suggests that there is need to create awareness about early detection of ovarian cancer among the women. Further this study strongly suggest that there is a strong urge to improve the education and socio economic status of women as there was association found between education and income of the participants with knowledge.

Key words : Ovaries, Cancer, Gynecology, OPD, Women.

I. Introduction :

Cancer is a class of diseases characterized by out- of-control growth. Breast cancer and cervical cancer are the most common cancers that are affecting women. But now a days ovarian cancer is one of the main issue, most of the people are not aware about this. Ovarian cancer is usually affecting 45-55 years. Ovarian cancer is the sixth common cancer among women in the world. Although we know that ovarian cancer is like other cancers, is caused by cells dividing and multiplying in an unordered way, nobody completely understands why cancer of the ovary occurs. Women with close relatives who have or had the prostate cancer, uterine cancer have higher risk of getting ovarian cancer. Ovarian cancer is one of the most challenging gynecological cancers in the world, with profound negative effect on the quality and length of life and with more than 70% of the women diagnosed with advanced disease. The absence of specific symptoms and effective screening tests make it difficult to establish early diagnosis of ovarian cancer. In addition, most women have a little or no knowledge about the risks, possible symptoms, and the dangers ovarian cancer poses to them. All these factors combined together are likely responsible for most of the late presentations seen in women with ovarian cancer and its related mortality.

II. Review of Literature :

According to Cancer Foundation of India statistics- in Bangalore total cases of ovarian cancer is 401 and total percentage is 16.5 %. Most of the women are lacking of knowledge about ovarian cancer. Most of the cases are diagnosed after it has spread beyond the ovaries. Five-year survival rate decreases to 72.8% when detected at the regional stage and to 28.2% when detected at the distant stage. The majority of ovarian cancer cases seem to be sporadic. Currently, there are no effective screening tests to assist with the early detection of ovarian cancer. Some women diagnosed with ovarian cancer report having had symptoms before the diagnosis, which seems to contradict the common description of ovarian cancer as a silent killer.

In a retrospective study conducted in Gujarat , 95% of women with ovarian cancer who responded to a survey said they had symptoms before diagnosis, 77% reported abdominal symptoms bloating, pain, increased size, 70% gastrointestinal symptoms indigestion, constipation, nausea, 58% symptoms involving pain abdominal pain, pain with intercourse, back pain, 50% constitutional symptoms fatigue, anorexia, weight loss, 34% urinary symptoms frequency or incontinence; and 26% pelvic symptoms bleeding, a palpable mass.

A study was conducted to identify the knowledge regarding ovarian cancer, symptoms and its treatment among women. Most of the ovarian cancers are diagnosed in stage III or IV. Main reason is the ignorance about this type of cancer. National Ovarian Cancer Coalition conducted a survey the about familiarity of ovarian cancer among women. 1235 women were participated. Only 15% of respondents were familiar with ovarian cancer symptoms, and more than two-thirds incorrectly believed that the Papanicolaou test diagnoses the disease. Four out of five had never had a conversation with a physician about symptoms and risk factors; among these, more than half assumed that because their physician had not initiated such a discussion, ovarian cancer was not an issue

III. Research Methodology:

Research Approach: Quantitative Research Approach

Research Design: cross sectional descriptive Research design

Target population: women attending Gynaecological OPD in WCH, JIPMER

Sample size: 240 women with the age group above 40 years

Sampling Technique: convenient sampling

Research Setting: Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER)

Demographic variables: age, education, occupation, domicile, type of family, income of the family, previous knowledge about ovarian cancer and the source of information.

Tool : 15 questions regarding ovarian cancer with a total score of 39.

IV. Analysis and Interpretations:

Table no 1 showed that among the study population, majority of the women 86.6% (208) were married, 30.4% (73) were graduates and above, 67% (161) were from rural area and 55.4% (133) were from joint family. Out of the total study participants 70%(168) of them had monthly income between Rs 5000 to 10000, 37% (89) were unemployed, 67.9% (163) had some previous knowledge regarding the topic. The above table also showed that 31.2% (75) of the participants had no source of information regarding the topic.

INCOME	5,000-10,000	168	70
	10,001-20,000	38	15.8
	20,001-30,000	20	8.3
	>30,001	14	5.8
OCCUPATION	EMPLOYED	83	34.5
	UNEMPLOYED	89	37
	SELF EMPLOYED	58	24.1
	RETIRED	10	4.1
PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE	YES	163	67.9
	NO	77	32
SOURCE OF INFORMATION	NO INFORMATION	77	32
	NEWSPAPER	18	7.5
	TV	52	21.6
	DOCTOR	60	25
	NURSES	33	13.7

VARIABLES		FREQUENCY(N)	PERCENTAGE (%)
MARITAL STATUS	SINGLE	11	4.5
	MARRIED	208	86.6
	WIDOW	20	8.3
	DIVORCED	1	0.4
EDUCATION	ILLITERATE	47	19.5
	PRIMARY	61	25.4
	SECONDARY	59	24.5
	GRADUATE AND ABOVE	73	30.4
DOMICILE	RURAL	161	67
	URBAN	79	32.9
TYPE OF FAMILY	NUCLEAR FAMILY	104	43.3
	JOINT FAMILY	133	55.4
	EXTENDED FAMILY	3	1.2

Table no. 1 Distribution of socio-demographic variables of study participants in frequency and percentage

The above data depicted that out of 240 participants, 76.6% had inadequate knowledge, 17% had moderately adequate knowledge, 5.8% had adequate knowledge and 0.4% had excellent knowledge.

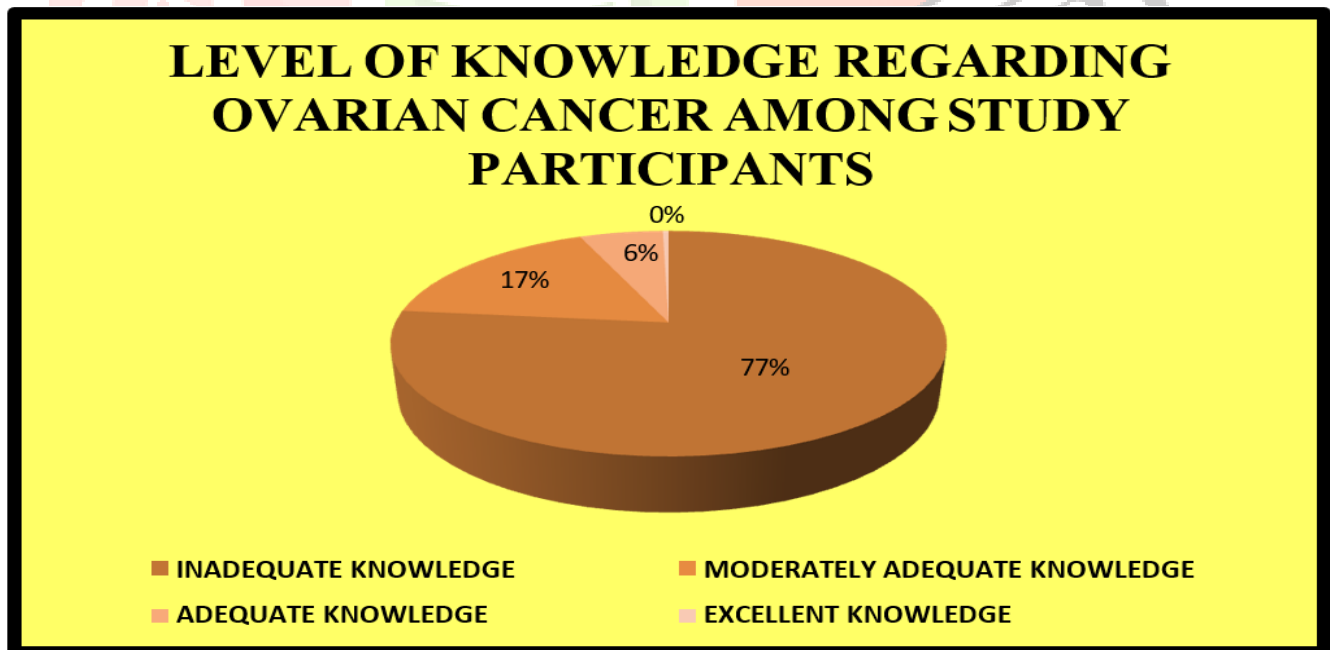


Figure 1 : Level of knowledge regarding ovarian cancer among study participants

The above data depicted that out of 240 participants, 76.6% had inadequate knowledge, 17% had moderately adequate knowledge, 5.8% had adequate knowledge and 0.4% had excellent knowledge.

V. Conclusion:

The objective of the present study was to assess the level of knowledge among 240 women attending gynecology OPD, WCH JIPMER. A descriptive cross sectional study design was used to achieve the objective of the study. Data was collected for 3 days among women attending gynecology OPD, WCH JIPMER. The data was collected by using structured questionnaire. The statistical analysis was carried out by using SPSS version 2.2. The study findings are summarized and the result showed that 76.6% of women had inadequate knowledge regarding ovarian cancer; 17% had moderately adequate knowledge, 5.8% had adequate knowledge and 0.4% had excellent knowledge. It was found that majority of them had inadequate knowledge regarding ovarian cancer. Hence the study suggest that there is a need to create awareness about early detection of ovarian cancer among the women. Further this study strongly suggest that there is a strong urge to improve the education and socio economic status of women as there was association found between education and income of the participants with knowledge.

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