The role of visual inspection of the cervix after acetic acid application (VIA) in screening of cervical lesions.

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Abstract:

In Egypt, invasive cervical cancer is the commonest female genital cancer after breast cancer. In 2002, the prevalence of cervical cancer was 7.8/100,000 with 2713 newly annual reported cases. In addition, the mortality of cervical cancer is 6.3/100,000 (2178) Objectives: 1) to increase awareness of women about cervical cancer risk by counseling. 2) To determine nursing’s role in cervical cancer screening, and 3) To define the role of visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) as a screening tool for cervical lesions Significant: Women in developing countries face many barriers that prevent them from receiving adequate, timely cervical cancer screening as Lack of awareness of disease, knowledge and prevention of cervical cancer. Disadvantaged economic status is also cited as a reason for lack of screening. Women are more likely to use cervical cancer screening if health care providers are sensitive, respectful, knowledgeable, skilled, and informative. Methods: A cross sectional design was used. A convenient sample consisted of non pregnant, non virginal women from an outpatient clinic in Upper Egypt were recruited. Tools: questionnaire, reporting results of VIA test, cytology and Colposcopy. Results: 450 non-pregnant women were recruited, counseled about cc screening. The nurse was able to identify squamous columnar junction 100% Findings: 15.1% (n=68) of women screened positive for precancerous/cancer compared to 17.1% (n=77) screened with VIA and 82.9 % (n=373) negative as compared to Pap smear results showing 83.8% (n=377) as negative and 10.2% (n=46) screened as atypical cells. Implications: The findings of this study would have tremendous impact on cervical cancer prevention and using nurse providers for counseling and screening in Egypt. Conclusion VIA is as effective as Pap smear for determining precancerous or cancerous cervical lesions.

Keywords:

VIA (Visual inspection with Acetic Acid), CC (cervical cancer), nursing role as screening provider

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