

2012 World Cancer Congress Abstract Submission

Track 1 - Prevention and early detection (including tobacco control)

Screening and early detection: program implementation

2012WCC-1400

AWARENESS OF CERVICAL CANCER IN INDIAN WOMEN WORKING IN THE SOFTWARE INDUSTRY IN NEW DELHI, INDIA.

D. Kapoor^{1,*} and NO

¹BREAST CANCER PATIENTS BENEFIT FOUNDATION, New Delhi, India

I declare that my abstract adheres to the World Cancer Declaration, target number:: 6. More Cancers Diagnosed via Screening & Early Detection

I would feel comfortable to give an oral presentation in front of a large audience: Yes

I live in a lower / middle income country and wish to apply for a travel grant: Yes

I am the first and presenting author of this abstract: Yes

Country of residence: India

I am a member of the UICC association of fellows: No

Background:

One woman dies every seven minutes of cervical cancer in India. Cervical cancer is the most common form of cancer among women in India, with an estimated 100,000 new cases developing annually in the country. 70% or more of these cases are stage three or higher at diagnosis. A WHO study reveals that every year 1,32,082 women are diagnosed with this particular kind of cancer and 74,118 die from the disease. The growing risk of cervical cancer in women in India is 2.4% compared to 1.3% for the world. Not many know that India, with a population of 365.71 million has women aged between 15 years and above who stand at the risk of developing cervical cancer

Lack of awareness, resulting in sporadic medical check-ups and traditional inhibition in generous discussion on the topic, often leads to neglect and delay in the process of treatment, resulting in high mortality. Apart from Human Papilloma Virus, changing lifestyle, with a tendency to over indulge in ostentatious social pleasures, is also being held as a prime reason behind the high prevalence rate. The fact that the habit of smoking, having multiple sexual partners and intercourse at a young age enhance risk of cervical cancer manifolds, itself sustains the claim

Objectives: The purpose was to educate the women working in the software industry in the city of New Delhi, India, towards cervical cancer, its risk factors, identification of the symptoms, and early detection and screening methods to enable reduce mortality from this disease.

Methods: A power point presentation on the risk factors, symptoms, causes, screening tests including Pap Smear and HPV testing was made to the women. Emphasis on HPV infections and the cervical cancer vaccine was also included. Since the vaccine has recently been made available in the country details of its role in preventing cancers was stressed. Handouts and material about cervical cancer and its prevention was developed by the foundation and disseminated to all those who attended these talks

Results: Data from urban cities in India suggest that there may have been a slight decline in cervical cancer incidence in recent years due to increased awareness and better screening and early detection methods.

Conclusion: Educating women on early detection and screening methods like Pap Smear tests, HPV testing, and the use of the cervical cancer vaccine at an appropriate age can have a major impact in reducing mortality rates due to cervical cancer. It is the commonest cancer in India and all sexually active women are at a risk of contracting this disease. If detected at a pre-cancerous stage, this cancer is 100 per cent curable,

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

Keywords: CERVICAL CANCER