

Abstract

Original Article

Knowledge and Awareness of Breast Cancer and Screening Methods among Female Undergraduate Students in a Semi-Urban College Of Culture and Humanities, Nigeria

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Abstract

Background: The rising global incidence of malignant diseases such as breast cancer is an issue of serious concern because it is one of the leading causes of death among women globally, especially in the developing countries like Nigeria. Early detection and prompt attention as a result of adequate knowledge and awareness about breast cancer and screening methods go a long way in reducing the associated high mortality rate. Hence, the need for this study.

Aim: To assess the knowledge and awareness of breast cancer and screening methods among female undergraduate students

Methods: The study utilized a descriptive design to assess the knowledge and awareness about breast cancer and screening tests among the undergraduate female students of college of Humanities and Culture, Ikire campus of Osun State University. Multistage sampling was used to select 30% of the total population which is equivalent to 266 respondents. Data was collected by using structured questionnaire. Frequency distribution table, bar chart and chi-square using SPSS version 20 was used to analyse the data.

Results: More than half (62 %) of the respondents had good knowledge about breast cancer. Little above half that (68.2%) were aware that breast self-examination is a form of screening methods and sixty-seven percent (67.3%) were aware that mammogram is effective in detecting lumps early while 68.8% of the respondents were not aware that clinical breast examination is screening method for breast cancer. Also, 73.5% of the respondents believed that breast cancer is a serious disease and 87.9% agreed that there breast self-examination (BSE) is beneficial but only 52.3% were confident in performing BSE. Significant association was observed between the perceived level of threat from cancer and screening practice, and between perceived benefit from breast cancer screening methods and screening practice.

Conclusions: This study concluded that respondents had good knowledge breast cancer and risk factors about and they were also aware of the various screening methods.

Key Words: Knowledge, Awareness, Breast Cancer, Screening Methods.