

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE UTILIZATION OF CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING SERVICES AMONG HIV POSITIVE WOMEN ATTENDING CARE AND TREATMENT CENTRES (CTC) IN KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY, DAR ES SALAAM.

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ABSTRACT

Background: Cervical cancer is one of the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in women in the world. The most affected region being Sub-Saharan African region, which also experience both high burden of cervical cancer and HIV.

Objective: To determine the factors influencing the utilization of cervical cancer screening services among HIV positive women attending CTC in Kinondoni municipality, Dar es Salaam.

Methodology: The study was conducted using an analytical cross-sectional study conducted between September and October 2021 among HIV-positive women attending CTC. Data was collected using a pre-tested standardized questionnaire, and interviews were conducted in Swahili. Analysis was conducted using descriptive statistics to determine proportion of CC screening utilization and multivariate logistic regression used to analyze the Adjusted Odds Ratio association of the independent variable with the dependent variable using SPSS version 25.

Results: Overall, 230 HIV positive women were interviewed. 217(94.3) have ever heard of CC, the proportion of those who screened were 108(47%). The women who did not know being HIV positive is a risk factor for cervical cancer were less likely to screen for CC [AOR 0.49, 95% CI 0.253-0.957] p value=0.037. Parity of those who had given birth to more than 3times were likely to screen CC compared to those who had given birth 1-2 times [AOR 2.124, 95% CI 1.012-4.456] p-value=0.046. Employment status: house mothers were likely to screen CC compared to business women [AOR 2.594, 95% CI 1.149-5.853] p-value=0.022. Those without knowledge on prevention methods for cervical cancer were less likely to screen compared to those who had knowledge on prevention method for cervical cancer [AOR 0.114, 95% CI 0.013-0.972] p-value=0.047.

Conclusion: Most of HIV positive women had Inadequate knowledge on the risk factors for cervical cancer, signs and symptoms of cervical cancer, and knowledge on prevention of cervical cancer. The women living with HIV should be educated so as to raise awareness on screening for cervical cancer since there at higher risk of cervical cancer.