WILLINGNESS OF WOMEN IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF GHANA TO PAY FOR CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

C. Opoku1, D. Kolbilla1, E. Browne2, K. Spangenberg3, C. Moyer4, K. Gold4

1. Tamale Teaching Hospital, Tamale, Ghana
2. Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana
3. Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana
4. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

This study was to assess willingness of women accessing antenatal services or child welfare clinics in the Tamale Teaching Hospital to pay for cervical cancer screening if the facility was made available to them.

Methods

A convenience sample of 300 women were selected from the antenatal and child welfare clinics. We interviewed them using a semi-structured questionnaire to inquire about demographics, knowledge of cervical cancer, willingness to screen and willingness to pay for screening.

Results: Based on preliminary data from 275/300 women interviewed to date. 184 (67%) respondents had never heard about cervical cancer. Only 9 (3%) respondents had been screened before. 264 (96%) were willing to screen if the facility were made available in the hospital and of that number 210 (80%) were willing to pay for screening and gave a range of 0.5Ghc to 200GHC with a mean amount of 12Ghc and a median amount of 5Ghc. 45 (17%) were willing to pay depending on the cost with an acceptable mean amount of 8Ghc and a median amount of 5Ghc.

Conclusion

There is an unmet need for cervical cancer screening among women in the Northern region of Ghana and the facility for screening is likely to be well utilized if set up. Clients are willing to pay a subsidized fee for the service.