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Evaluation of women having pap smear test by health belief model scale

O Aygun, Özden Gökdemir, U Bulut, S Yaprak, N Ozcakar

Dokuz Eylul University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine, Izmir

Corresponding author: Dr Olgu Aygun, Dokuz Eylul University Faculty of Medicine Izmir, Turkey, Department of Family Medicine, Izmir, Turkey. E-mail: olgu4780@gmail.com

Objective: Cervical cancer is a common disease with high mortality, back-breaking and expensive treatment, an important public health problem as well. The aim of this study was to evaluate the women's beliefs about having Pap Smear test.

Method: This study was planned as a descriptive cross-sectional research and conducted between the dates of June and September 2015 at a Family Medicine Health Center in Izmir. The survey has been carried out by 266 women who were over 30 years and accepted participating in the study. The data were collected with a questionnaire developed by the researcher including the Health Belief Model Scale for Pap Smear Test. The analysis was performed with SPSS 15.0 software program. The significance p value <0.05 was accepted.

Results: Participants (n = 266) mean age was 40.00 ± 8.10 (min 30-max-70). Of the participants 82.0% (218) were married, 2.6% (n = 7) single, 13.5% (n = 36) had no children. The average age of first intercourse was 21.67 ± 4.53 (min: 13-max: 45). First intercourse age under 20 years mentioned by 49.2% of participants (n = 131) and 59.0% (157) had PAP smear before. When smear frequency were asked 58 (21.8%) of them answered per year. In 13.5%, there was more than one partner. There was no relation between the education level, working status and having a Pap test ($p>0.05$). It was found that the average points of subgroups (seriousness and health motivation) of Health Belief Model Scale were higher ($p<0.05$).

Conclusion: The rate of making Pap Smear test has been still in medium-level and there are barriers. It is an important issue to planning initiatives for the elimination of barriers taking Smear test for family physicians.

Key words: Pap Smear Test, Cervical Cancer, Health Belief Model