

OP20.3

Relationship between health literacy level and breast cancer knowledge and screening behavior of women

Candan Kendir Çopurlar, M Kartal

Dokuz Eylul University Hospital, Izmir, Turkey

Corresponding author: Dr Candan Kendir Çopurlar, Dokuz Eylul University, Family Medicine, Izmir, Turkey. E-mail: candankendir@hotmail.com

Background & Aim: Breast cancer mortality rate under age 50 is decreasing as treatment options improved, awareness of community increased and screenings lead early diagnosis possible. Health literacy seems to be an important for cancer awareness and screening behavior and it's aimed to determine this relationship in Turkish women.

Method: This cross sectional study was conducted in 500 women who are above 40 years and applied to one rural and one urban primary healthcare centers (PHC) in March- April 2015, in Izmir, Turkey. REALM (Rapid Estimation of Adult Literacy Measurement) scale, validated for Turkish by Ozdemir et al. and AHLS (Adult Health Literacy Scale), developed by Sezer et al. were given for HL measurement. Additionally a questionnaire including sociodemographics, breast cancer knowledge, screening behavior of women was used.

Results: Mean age of women was 49.62 ± 8.428 years. of the women, 52% (n=260) were registered at rural PHC, 51.2% (n=256) graduated from primary school, 61.0% (n=305) housewives and 74.4% (n=372) had average economic status. According to REALM 31.8% (n=159) had limited/inadequate HL and mean AHLS score was 19.55 ± 2.64 (min-max=0-23). REALM score of women was decreasing with increased age ($p=0.010$), low education ($p<0.001$) and economical status ($p<0.001$). Women having a job and applied to urban PHC had higher scores. AHLS score of women showed similar significant associations. Mean breast cancer knowledge score of women was 7.47 ± 3.17 (min-max=0-15). of the women 55.2% (n=261) never had mammography screening. Women who never had mammography screening had lower REALM ($p<0.001$), AHLS ($p=0.185$) and breast cancer knowledge score ($p=0.004$) than women who had at least once.

Conclusion: HL studies are limited in Turkey and as known this is the first study focused on HL and breast cancer knowledge, screening behavior. for cancer screening success, physicians have to be aware of their patients HL levels.