

CERVICAL CANCER: PERCEPTIONS AND BARRIERS TO SCREENING
AMONG SOMALI WOMEN IN EASTLEIGH, NAIROBI

BY

ABDIHAKIM MOHAMUD

B/PHARM/09/04718

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELORS DEGREE IN
PHARMACY OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY.

SEPTEMBER 2013

TITLE: CERVICAL CANCER: PERCEPTIONS AND BARRIERS TO SCREENING AMONG SOMALI WOMEN IN EASTLEIGH- NAIROBI

ABSTRACT:

Globally cervical cancer is the 2nd most common cancer in women and the leading cause of cancer death among women in developing countries. The number of deaths in developing countries is almost ten times those in developed countries. In Africa approximately 80,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer annually with 60,000 recorded deaths. This disparity in cervical cancer incidences between developed and developing countries reflect absence of rational screening programmes in most developing countries (IARC, 2009). Cervical cancer is the 2nd commonest cancer in Kenya according to the most recent statistics (Korir 2010). Although cancer still remains a health problem, cervical cancer screening by Pap smear, early diagnosis and improved therapeutic interventions of cervical cancer in developed countries are quite different from what is observed in the developing countries. Early diagnosis and proper management of cervical cancer has the potential of reducing the mortality rates. Cancer screening by Pap smear is the most common method, (Agurto, 2004).

There is no effective, organized population-based high level opportunistic screening programmes of cervical cancer using Pap smear in Kenya contrary to developed nations where routine pap smear screening of asymptomatic women are carried out. For screening programmes to be successful, a good attending rate of women undertaking the test is important. A complete thorough exploration of their social, economic and demographic profile is a preliminary requirement (Korir et al 2010).

This study will explore in depth the various barriers and perceptions influencing the uptake of Pap smear screening in Somali women living in East Leigh - Nairobi. It will involve visiting health facilities, families and administering a questioner.

Key words: Pap smear, cervical cancer