WHAT DO WOMEN KNOW ABOUT PAP SMEAR?
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Introduction: It is well established that the Pap test when combined with a regular program of screening and appropriate follow-up can reduce cervical cancer deaths by up to 80. Purpose: To analyze women knowledge about the Pap smear survey program. Methods: We performed an anonymous survey in 41 women that were scheduled for an appointment in a single countryside health center. We included consecutive women during a four-week period. The questionnaire was about the Pap smear survey program and HPV vaccination. Data was collected in a database and analyzed with SPSS v15.0. We used t-test and the Chi square test for comparisons. Results: Forty-one women were included. Mean age was 39.5±12.8 years; most were married (51.2%) and employed (78%). Over a third had completed high school. Although 87.8% of the women were informed about the Pap smear only 68.3% admitted a past screening test. From these, 40% said they had more than three tests. Most of the women got relevant information from the general practitioner (46.3%), in comparison with the gynecologist (9.8%). Only 22% of the population had a past history of a cervix treatment. Most of the women (78%) had information about the HPV vaccine, but only 12.2% were vaccinated. Only 17% and 14% of the women were correctly informed about the screening starting and ending age respectively. The informed women had a trend to be older (44±9.6 vs 38.1±13.4 years, p=0.20), more frequently married (66.7 vs 46.9%, p=0.29) and unemployed (33.3 vs 18.8%, p=0.35). Conclusions: According to our simple query, in our population more work has to be done to better educate women and to improve Pap smear targets.