KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CERVICAL CANCER, HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS AND ATTITUDE AND ACCEPTANCE OF VACCINATION AMONG FEMALE STUDENTS OF ALBORZ UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

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Introduction: Human papilloma virus (HPV) is leading cause of cervical cancer and sexually transmitted infections which are common health problems of young people. As the cervical cancer is a common cause of female mortality, evaluate and improve the knowledge and attitudes of people, especially students seem necessary.

Material and methods: The present cross sectional study was conducted on 202 female students. Data collected using a questionnaire containing demographic questions related to knowledge, attitudes, acceptance of the HPV vaccine. Reliability and validity of the questionnaire was approved.

Result: The findings showed that the majority of subjects (66.8%) had poor knowledge and in 5% of cases awareness is good. About 25 percent of students had a positive attitude and 2/5 percent had negative attitudes toward the HPV vaccine.

Over 70% of students reported if vaccine be available, they are willing to receive it. The regression model showed that age, with the amount of knowledge ($\beta = 0.36$, $p = 0.000$) correlation is significant.

ANOVA test showed awareness of nursing and midwifery students ($p=0.00$) is higher than others. Married students were more aware than singles ($p=0.05$). Linear regression analysis showed that there is no significant relationship between the level of awareness of cervical cancer and attitudes towards cervical cancer vaccine.

Logistic regression model, had showed a significant relationship between awareness of cervical cancer (OR $= 1/8$, and $p <0.01$) and acceptance of the vaccine.

Attitudes toward vaccines (OR $=1/6$, $P <0/000$), and marital status (OR $=5/1$, $P =0/02$) were predictors of vaccine acceptance.

Conclusions: According to human papillomavirus vaccination program in the country that still does not exist, create community awareness programs and prevention with vaccination programs seems appropriate action.

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