Contribution ID: 181 Type: Paper

Home Based screening of cervical cancer - A pilot study in a urban slum in Cuttack.

Background: Persistent infection with high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV) causes virtually all cervical cancers. Two high-risk types, HPV 16 and HPV 18 cause 70% of cervical cancers worldwide. Nearly all sexually active people will become infected with HPV at some point in their lives. Most HPV infections go away on their own within a year or two as our immune system controls the infection. High-risk HPV infection lasting for years can lead to changes in the cervical cells, resulting in a precancerous lesion.

Aims & Objectives: Currently the preferred method of screening is HPV-DNA testing which detects HR HPV strains. The aim of this study was to improve coverage of cervical cancer screening and to know the actual prevalence of HPV infection in urban slum population.

Methods: Mass awareness created at community level and home based samples were collected, sample registration done, transported to Centralized laboratory or point of care. Rescreen after 5yrs to be done in screen negative cases. Screen and treat strategy was applied for all screen positive cases. Lesions eligible for ablation underwent thermocoagulation and follow up. Rests were planned for colposcopy, guided biopsy and further management.

Results and Conclusions:Among 37840 population covered at slums of 7wards of Cuttack urban,6436 were eligible for screening(women of 30-65yrs).4896(76%) screened for cervical cancer among whom 322(7%) were HPV positive.42% of them were treated. Screening coverage is 76% & HPV prevalence rate is 7%.

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