

6TH WORLD FORUM ON BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER



Essaada Belglaiiaa, ^{1,2}, Jean-Luc Prétet, ^{2,3} David Guenat, ^{2,3} Christiane Mougin^{2,3}

¹ Service des soins infirmiers, Institut Supérieur des Professions Infirmières et Techniques de Santé, Laâyoune, Morocco

² EA 3181, LabEx LipSTIC ANR-11-LABX-0021, Université Bourgogne Franche- Comté, Besançon, France

³ Centre National de Référence Papillomavirus, CHU de Besançon, Besançon, France

Awareness toward cervical cancer among HIV-positive Moroccan women: a cross-sectional study

Background: Cervical cancer remains a disease of significant concern to women's health. This study aims to explore the level of awareness regarding cervical cancer among HIV-infected Moroccan women in Laâyoune city, Morocco. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted, from April to June 2017, among 123 HIV-positive women attending an HIV treatment centre at the Hospital of Moulay Hassan Ben Elmehdi in Laâyoune city, Morocco. We used a knowledge test guided by a questionnaire to collect information regarding cervical cancer, its risk factors and its prevention. **Results:** A total of 115 respondents to the questionnaire. The mean age was 34.9 years (± 10.2). Few women (20%) had heard about cervical cancer and its screening, the majority (17.4%) having received information from mass media. The vast majority (79.1%) of respondents did not know cervical cancer risk factors, and 80.8% did not know any symptoms of cervical cancer. Only 13% had undergone a Pap smear test. The main reason for not seeking Pap smear was the absence of symptoms (47%). **Conclusion:** There is an over-riding need to implement and strengthen health education programmes on cervical cancer and its prevention in HIV treatment centres in Morocco.

Keywords

Cervical cancer, HIV, Awareness, HIV-positive women, Morocco

Biography

Prof. Essaada BELGLAIAA, HDR, PhD, is the deputy director in charge of Scientific Research, Continuing Education and Cooperation in the Higher Institute of Nursing and Health Techniques (ISPITS) of Béni Mellal, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Morocco. She is a Professor of epidemiology and public health with a PhD from the University of Franche-Comte, Besancon (France) and Ibn Zohr University, Agadir (Morocco). Her research work focuses on cervical cancer and breast cancer (including awareness, screening and diagnosis), HPV vaccination, molecular biology and infectious diseases (HPV, HIV...). Prof. BELGLAIAA has been actively involved in the implementation of the PhD program for nursing students in Morocco.