

Predictors of cervical cancer screening uptake in Sub Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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Abstract

Background: Cervical cancer prevention and screening program has been given a considerable attention in developed countries with minimal effort in many low and middle-income nations. Even though cervical cancer screening is proven to reduce cervical cancer incidence, many factors influence the screening uptake among women. Thus, we intend to estimate the pooled prevalence of cervical cancer screening uptake and identify the predictors.

Methods: Pub Med, EMBASE, CINAHL, African journals online, Web of science and SCOPUS electronic databases were searched and result reporting was followed the PRISMA statement. All English language; observational studies published from January 2000 to January 2018, conducted in Sub Saharan Africa were included. The Newcastle-Ottawa Scale quality assessment tool was applied to examine quality of the studies. Heterogeneity and publication biases were checked by I^2 test statistic and egger's test, respectively. Subgroup analysis was carried out based on sample size and geographic distribution of the studies. Random effects model was used to present the pooled prevalence and odds ratio of predictors with 95% confidence interval.

Results: Twenty-one studies were included with a total of 30,029 women. The pooled prevalence of cervical cancer screening in Sub Saharan Africa was 5.35% (95% confidence interval: 5.11, 5.59). After systematic selection of studies; educational status, age of women, HIV-sero status, contraceptive use, perceived susceptibility, aware about place of the screening were factors associated with cervical cancer screening. Meta-analysis of six studies showed that knowledge about cervical cancer increased screening uptake by 5-fold (OR: 5.13; 95% CI: 3.04, 8.65).

Conclusion: Cervical screening uptake is low in Sub Saharan Africa. Health promotion and awareness creation activities are needed to increase uptake of screening service in the region.

Key words: Cervical cancer screening; predictors; meta-analysis; Sub Sahara Africa.

Protocol registration: CRD42017079375 (<https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO>).