

Knowledge and attitudinal study of Kenyan women in relation to cervical carcinoma

Abstract:

Knowledge and attitude in relation to cervical carcinoma was studied in 85 cervical cancer patients and 177 matched controls. The mean age of the cases was 44.2 years and mean parity 6.5. The majority were illiterate. Statistically significant differences were seen in both mean age at marriage and at first coitus, being lower for cases than controls (P less than 0.001). Basic knowledge of abnormalities of vaginal bleeding or discharge was characteristically poor in both groups. Over 90% had never attended any routine gynecological check up and did not deem it necessary. The few on regular check up were FP clinic attenders. Pap smear was totally unknown to most cases and controls. Against this background the vital role of public education in the control of cervical carcinoma is emphasized.