ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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Assessment of awareness and attitude of women about breast cancer screening behavior in Yazd city, Iran in 1391

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Abstract

Background: Breast cancer is one of the most important and prevalent diseases in women and it are necessary for every woman to know the essential information in this context. Screening of healthy women can explore abnormal changes in them. The present study was done by the purpose of determining awareness and attitude of women about breast cancer screening behavior in Yazd city, Iran.

Methods: The present study is descriptive-analytical which the awareness and attitude of women were assessed who were referring to the one of the health clinics and were selected by convenience sampling (n=480). A researcher-made questionnaire was used including 4 parts: demographic (n=4), history of breast diseases (n=4), questions for measuring awareness (n=24), and attitude (n=42). The reliability was measured by Cronbach's Alfa coefficient (r=0.86) and its face and content validity by health education professors. Data analysis was done by SPSS software (version 19) and descriptive statistics, two-sample student, and chi-square tests.

Results: The women's age range was 24-59 years. 78% were married, 29.7% had academic education. The most important resources for acquisition of health information were health professionals, mass media, medical resources, close friends and relatives, and physician in respectively. The acquired grade of awareness section questions were placed in poor to moderate categories. 64.8% of women had negative attitude. The women with lower awareness level had more negative attitude ($P<0.001$). The significant relationship was observed between educational level and age with awareness. Also there was the statistics significant relationship between the awareness and attitude with marital status ($P<0.05$).

Conclusion: The most important perceived barriers of breast-self examination were "not believe in screening, fear of finding a mass, husband opposition, forgetting the time of examination, and breast pain". Thus, enhancing the awareness level and reforming the Iranian's women attitude is necessary because their health can give guarantee to the family and is considered one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Keywords: Awareness, Attitude, Women, Screening Behavior, Breast Cancer.

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