

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF
CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING AMONG HIV-
POSITIVE FEMALES ATTENDING HIV CLINIC IN
UNTH ENUGU.**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Cervical cancer is the second commonest cancer and the leading cause of cancer deaths in women worldwide as well as in Nigeria, and it has been reported to be associated with HIV and AIDS. Knowledge of cervical cancer screening techniques and their practice is very critical for the reduction of deaths from cervical cancer.

Methodology: This study assessed the knowledge, attitude and practice of cervical cancer screening among HIV-positive females in Enugu between July and September 2012. A cross sectional study of 251 HIV positive women attending HIV treatment centre in Enugu was done using consecutive recruitment of consenting females. A semi-structured pretested questionnaire was used to obtain information from the women. Data obtained was analyzed using SPSS Version 17.0 software.

Results: A total of 251 HIV-positive women were studied. Majority 101(40.2%) of them were between ages 25-34 years. Ninety-five (37.8%) had heard about cervical cancer while 156(62.2%) had not and 38(15.1%) knew of the Pap smear screening test. Doctors and other health workers were the principal sources of information 45(17.5%), followed by mass media 30(11.7%). Only 21(8.4%) of the respondents had ever been screened for cervical cancer. Lack of knowledge about the test 159(63.3%), lack of doctor's recommendation 78(31.1%), ignorance about location of screening centre 32(12.7%), were the three most frequent reasons for lack of screening. The presence of risk factors for cervical cancer was high among the respondents as 155(61.7%) had multiple sexual partners, 139(58.9%) had sexual debut before 20 years and 103(41.0%) had sexual partners who did not use condom. 183(72.9%) were willing to undertake the cervical screening test while 68(27.1%) would not even with assurance of safety and at no cost. Educational status of the