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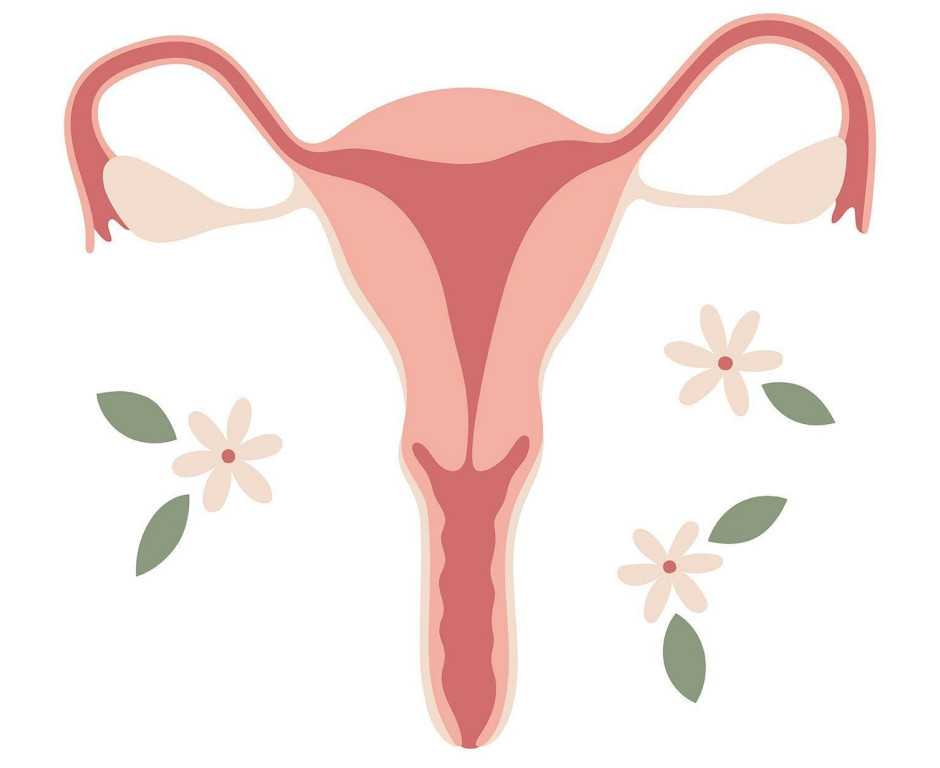
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Cervical Cancer Prevention in the Philippines

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Introduction

Cervical cancer is a malignant tumor that develops in the cervix and is a significant global health concern. Cervical cancer is diagnosed in 7,897 women every year in the Philippines and approximately 4,052 of diagnoses result in death. Early detection is vital in improving outcomes for women whether they are at risk for cervical cancer or not. The screening process consists of a pap smear in which cells from the cervix are collected and examined, to identify abnormalities (Lintao et al., 2022). In many rural communities in the Philippines, access to medical care including cervical cancer screening is limited due to a lack of funding, resources, and access to resources. This results in delayed diagnoses which then reduces the success of treatment (Carr et al., 2020). Barriers to cervical cancer screening need to be addressed and studied in order to reduce cervical cancer rates. Cervical cancer can be prevented and result in more favorable outcomes if detected early through cervical cancer screening for women ages 21-65 every three years. Cervical cancer screening involves a visit to a medical provider which could be costly.

References

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Hypothesis

An educational intervention addressing cervical cancer and screening among Filipino women is expected to elevate both cervical cancer screening rates and awareness regarding cervical cancer compared to those who do not receive the intervention.

Method

Design: Quasi-experimental
Independent Variable: cervical cancer education program
Dependent Variable: screening rates and levels of understanding for cervical cancer

Participants

- convenience sample: 50 women (ages 21-29) from Catholic churches in Manila, Philippines

Procedure

- pre-test questionnaire about awareness and knowledge of cervical cancer
- education on the importance of cervical cancer screening, the signs, and symptoms of cervical cancer, and common cervical cancer screening myths
- post-test questionnaire after education program to determine if understanding of cervical cancer prevention improved and if the participants received cervical cancer screening services.

Results

Statistical analysis:

- descriptive and inferential statistics (T-test)
- If the p-value is $< .05$, the results will be statistically significant and the hypothesis will be supported, and the null hypothesis will be rejected.

Conclusion

Cervical cancer continues to be a prevalent problem, particularly among women in the Philippines where there is an evident gap in literature on cervical cancer prevention interventions. Therefore, this research proposal aims to address this gap by offering an educational intervention to increase cervical cancer screening rates and knowledge. Acknowledging the importance of patient education in nursing practice, nurses should demonstrate this role by providing education on cervical cancer and the importance of screening. The next step that researchers need to take to address low cervical cancer screening rates is the nationwide implementation of cervical cancer education programs in addition to the city of Manila. Raising awareness about cervical cancer and screening among Filipino women is expected to improve cervical cancer screening rates and ultimately enhance cervical cancer prevention outcomes.

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