

**MEASUREMENT OF THE KNOWLEDGE and
BEHAVIOURS OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
ABOUT CERVICAL CANCER AND BREAST
CANCER
Aksaray State Hospital, Cancer Early Diagnosis
and Screening Center (KETEM)**

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Cancer is a public health problem not only in developed countries but also in developing countries. The risk of a woman to be cancer is approximately 38.5%. In the United States of America, one in every four deaths is due to cancer (1). Therefore, early diagnosis by screening methods for appropriate cancers is very important. If a disease which has had no symptoms yet can be diagnosed at early stages, it will be possible to cure it by of effective treatment.

Breast Self-Examination (KKMM) is an effective method for the early diagnosis of Breast Cancer.

Pap smear test is a unique screening method since it is an inexpensive and easily applicable test and is easily accepted by the patients, and can reduce death by 75% in cervical cancer when is used in community-based screening, (2).

Aksaray State Hospital, Cancer Early Diagnosis and Screening Center (KETEM) was opened on October 2005.

In the Conference Hall of our hospital and of the Provincial Health Directorate, training on Breast Self-Examination was given to a total of 682 healthcare personnel through sixteen separate trainings, and training on Cervical Cancer and Pap smear were given to 320 healthcare professionals through thirteen separate trainings.

Training for Breast Self-Examination was given totally to 1290 people including the Provincial Police Directorate staff, students of the Police Vocational High School, students of the Healthcare Vocational High School, all teachers and staff working in the Provincial National Education Directorate, and the students of Girls' Vocational High School.

The “Breast Self-Examination” brochure, prepared by our center on January 2006, was distributed to all the participants of our trainings, to the employees of the Public Institutions and to the public through our Hospitals and Healthcare Centers.

Brochure for “Information Brochure on Breast and Cervical Cancer” was prepared in February 2007.

The poster that we had prepared with the title “BEST PREVENTION IS EARLY DIAGNOSIS” was exhibited within the framework of the activities of the National Cancer Week organized by the Cancer Control Department in the Ankara Hilton Hotel between 3-5 April 2006, with the collaboration of International Institutions, the Middle East Cancer Consortium (MECC), the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA), Universities, Non-Governmental Organizations.

A poster titled “DO NOT BE LATE FOR LIFE WITH EARLY DIAGNOSIS” was prepared for the National Cancer Week 2007 activities.

Breast Polyclinics

Between October 2005 – February 2007	Number of admitted women	Number of women to whom clinical breast examination was done	Number of women to whom mammography was applied	Number of women to whom USG was applied	Number of women with breast cancer diagnosis
	5.492	5.492	1.978	947	6

Gynaecology Polyclinic

Between October 2006 – February 2007	Number of admitted women	Number of women to whom Pap Smear was applied	Number of women with cervical cancer diagnosis
	3.290	2.611	2

You can access information about our centre that aims to reach our public by using all possible methods by clicking the Centre for Early Diagnosis and Screening of Cancer link in website www.aksaraydevlethastanesi.gov.tr.

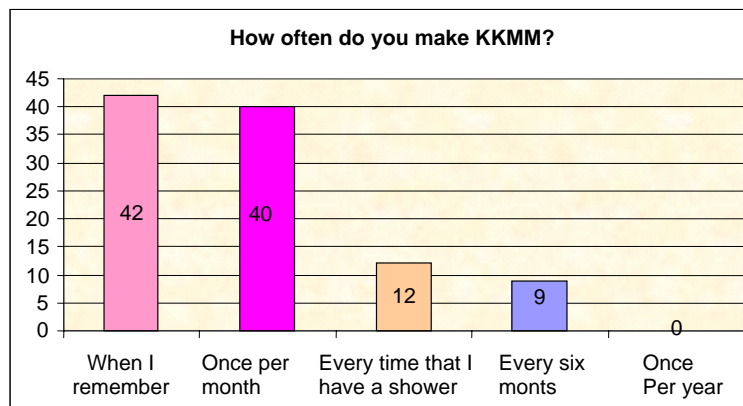
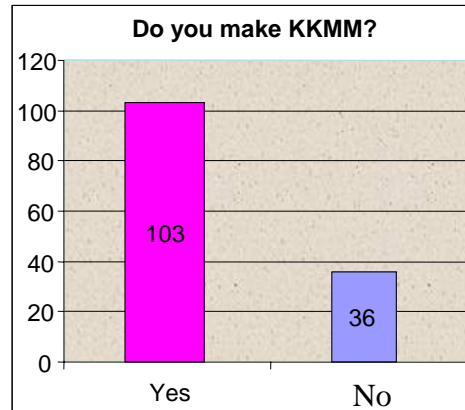
OBJECTIVE

This study aims to evaluate the knowledge and the behaviour of healthcare professionals, who will inform and raise awareness in the public and will ensure that individuals take the responsibility of their bodies about “Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer”.

MATERIAL

A questionnaire containing twenty questions was prepared by our centre in order to evaluate the knowledge and the behaviour of healthcare professionals about “Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer. The

questionnaire was applied to healthcare professionals participating in the training for cervical cancer and Pap smear, before the training started. To ensure that the participants give the answers most suitable to their knowledge and behaviour, personal questions and questions about their point of view to the disease were also asked to them in addition to the seven questions that we were going to assess.



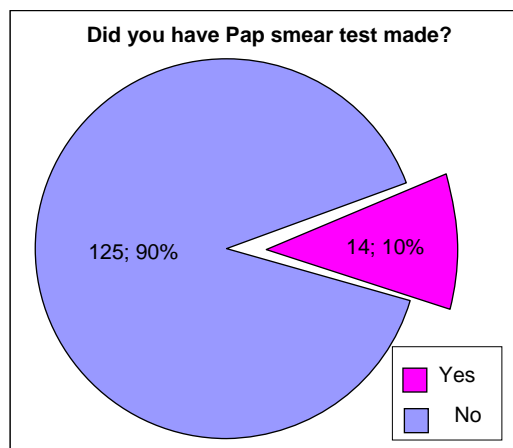
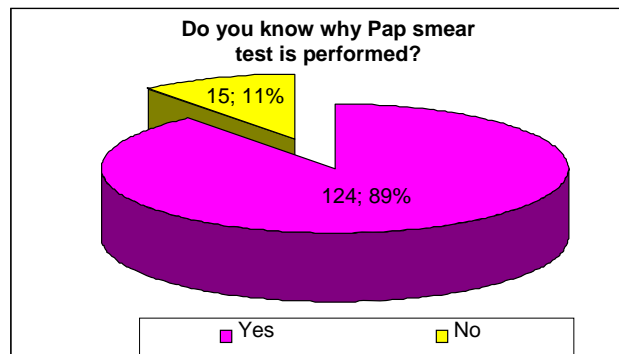
EVALUATION

139 healthcare professionals participated in our questionnaire. It was seen that all participants had knowledge about KKMM.

74 percent of the participants answered yes and 26 percent of them answered no to the question "Do you practice KKMM?"

From the answers to the question "How often do you practice KKMM", it was understood that 50% of the 103 healthcare professionals who practiced KKMM did it regularly.

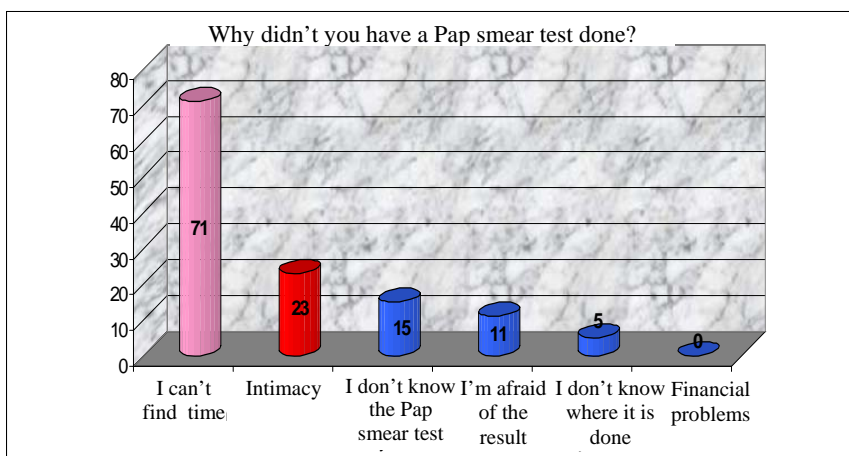
As seen from the questionnaire, although healthcare professionals have information about KKMM, it has been observed that they are inadequate in building awareness and regular presentation.



11 percent of the healthcare professionals answered the question "Do you know why Pap Smear test is performed?" as no.

Event though 124 healthcare professionals know why Pap smear test is performed, it has been seen that only 10 percent of them have had a Pap smear test done.

The ratio of the healthcare professionals that give the answer "I have not enough time" - just as our people always answer when we do not place due importance for serious issues - was 57%. Another issue that should be emphasized is that 23 (18.4%) of the 125 healthcare professionals are not having the test done due to reasons of intimacy.



RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In-service trainings were given to the healthcare professionals in our province in order to be able to reach to our public from all of our health institutions. Although necessary information was given in the training programs, necessary importance should be placed to raising awareness and implementation studies. It is maintained that conscious staff who practice KKMM will be more beneficial to our public.

Even though the persons who took the questionnaire were healthcare professionals, 11% of them declared that they had not heard the Pap smear test before and 90% of them declared that they haven't had a Pap smear test done before.

That 18.4% of the healthcare professionals haven't had any Pap smear test done due to the intimacy reasons is an important issue deserving importance.

It is concluded that just as with the KKMM, the healthcare professionals, who have information about the issue, are not adequately conscious, and did not have a Pap smear test done, leading us to the principle that those who can not take the responsibility of his/her health can not take the responsibility of others also.

In Turkey, women (whether a healthcare professional or not) do not have the habit of referring to physicians regularly. Thus, encouraging, informing and awareness raising studies should be done.

Active contribution of the written and visual media, of the non-governmental organizations, and particularly of the companies that manufacture the products used by women to the studies that inform and raise awareness about breast cancer and cervix cancer should be ensured. Cancer is both a disease the treatment of which is the most expensive and a disease mostly feared by the public. Increasing the studies concerning

early diagnosis will not only help the public to overcome fear of cancer but will also contribute positively to our national economy.