

BREAST CANCER AND BREAST SELF-EXAMINATION TRAINING FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN HATAY

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OBJECTIVE:

In this study, primary and secondary health care professionals were provided training on breast cancer, primary and secondary prevention and breast self-examination with the aim of these health professionals to teach 15-49 year old women and women over 50 years of age in the community to conduct their own breast self examination in their own homes or at the health centres.

MATERIALS AND METHOD:

It was planned to conduct 25 meetings for physicians, nurses and midwives working at primary health care services in 12 sub-provinces, including the provincial centre, and 2 meetings were planned for the midwives and nurses working at secondary health care services at the provincial centre facilitated by the health professionals assigned for training at the Hatay KETEM. The meetings for the primary health care professionals were held on 21.02.2006 and 17.03.2006 and the meeting for the secondary health care professionals was held on 13.12.2006. In the training organised for primary health care services, a total of 713 health professionals consisting of 248 physicians, 289 midwives, 160 nurses and 16 health care staff received training. In addition, 45 midwives and nurses of secondary health care services were trained at the Antakya State hospital. Later, an additional meeting was held on 31.01.2007 for 58

midwives and 33 nurses who had been assigned as acting primary health care services midwives and nurses.

FINDINGS:

The trained primary health care professionals provided training for a total of 65,508 women in their homes and at the health centres regarding Breast Self-Examination (KKMM). Of these women who received training, 55,050 were in the 15-49 year age group and 10,458 were 50 years and over. This total figure was 13.7% of the total of women in these age groups (477,379). Of the participating women to whom the KKMM was presented, 223 (0.34%) were reported as suspected cases. These suspected cases were referred firstly to the KETEM and then to the General Surgical Polyclinics.

CONCLUSION:

The widespread implementation and monitoring of the community based KKMM practices and studies are continuing in Hatay by the primary health care professionals headed by the midwives and nurses. Of the women who had received the training in 2006, 0.34% who had been reported to have suspected lesions was referred to have mammography screening and clinical examinations at secondary health care services..