

Abstract

Follow-up Of Clients With Abnormal Papanicalaou Smears Identified At The Cornwall Regional Hospital For The Period January 1997 To December 1997 and January 1999 To June 2000

Verna Thompson

A cross sectional study was conducted at the Cornwall Regional Hospital for the period January 1997 to December 1997 and January 1999 to June 2000 on clients with abnormal Papanicalaou smears identified at the hospital's laboratory.

One hundred and thirty five (135) clients were included in the study. The clients reside in the four parishes of the Western Region (St James, Hanover, Trelawny and Westmoreland. Relevant data were abstracted from the clients' dockets. Clients were then contacted and interviewed to assess what follow-up procedure and treatment is available to women after identification of an abnormal Pap smear.

Among the 135 clients in the study, 71.9% cases were from St James, 5.9% were from Hanover, 13.3% were from Trelawny and the remaining 8.9% were from Westmoreland. While most of the cases were from St James, the more severe cases (CIN II, CIN III, CIS and invasive carcinoma) were from the other parishes.

There was 68.1% (92) respondents. Seventy five percent of the clients who were identified with abnormal smear were referred or told to do a confirmatory test to see if the first result was cancerous. The study revealed that approximately 34.8% were treated with 26% not treated due to varying reasons such as lack of time, because they thought it was not necessary, they had no time or money and under the advise of their health practitioner. The other 39.1% were never followed-up to see if treatment was necessary.

Cone biopsies (which may also be used as a confirmatory test) were the most common form of treatment (57.1%). Seventy five percent of the clients who accessed treatment were treated at the Cornwall Regional Hospital.