

PP 76: Knowledge and attitude about breast cancer and practice of early detection of breast cancer among female health care professionals in Base Hospital, Panadura

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Introduction and Objectives: To assess the knowledge and attitude about breast cancer and to evaluate the practice of early detection of breast cancer through screening tools among female health care professionals in Base Hospital, Panadura.

Methods: A cross sectional study was carried out from 1st of February to 10th of March at Base Hospital, Panadura. A total of 54 female health care workers, selected by convenience sampling including medical officers (n=17), nursing staff (n=21), radiographers (n=6), pharmacists (n=7) and physiotherapists (n=3) were requested to fill a self-administered questionnaire designed to assess knowledge about the prevalence, risk factors, symptoms, screening tools, treatment options, attitudes about breast cancer and practice of early detection using available screening tools. SPSS was used for statistical analysis.

Results: More than two third of the participants (68%) had fairly good knowledge about the risk factors and symptoms, Medical officers had better knowledge about risk factors (96%) compared to other categories of health care workers. 57% said increasing age was a risk factor. 89% were aware of the importance of mammography but majority (61%) were unaware of the role of MRI. 39% said that chemotherapy was effective in treating breast cancer.

Conclusions: The study shows that health care professionals have a good knowledge about risk factors, symptoms and signs, and the role of mammography, clinical and self breast examination. Knowledge about