

A Study of Cervical Pap Smears in a Tertiary Care Hospital.

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ABSTRACT:

Background: Cancer of the cervix is the leading cancer among females of India. Cancer of cervix is readily preventable, and can be diagnosed at the pre-invasive stage with adequate and repetitive cytological screening with Papanicolaou (Pap) smears. **Objectives:** This is a retrospective study aimed to evaluate all previously conducted cervical smears examined at a teaching tertiary care hospital during one year period. **Methods:** Detailed clinical data and Pap smear cytology reports were obtained and data noted in a structured proforma. All the smears were reported as per the 2001 Bethesda system. **Results:** A total of 1436 Pap smears were examined. Maximum number of patients was in the age group of 31 – 40 years (fourth decade). There were 133(9.2%) unsatisfactory or inadequate samples. A total of 1187 smears were reported as Negative for Intraepithelial Lesion or Malignancy (NILM) and 390(22.7%) were inflammatory. Out of a total of 1436 Pap smears, only 116(8.0%) cases were reported to have epithelial cell abnormality. The 116 abnormal cases comprised of 36 cases with ASC-US, 27 cases of LSIL, 36 cases of HSIL, 7 cases of invasive squamous cell carcinoma. **Conclusion:** Premalignant and malignant lesions of cervix can be diagnosed easily by Pap smears. The epithelial cell abnormality rate in our study was 8.0%.

Keywords: Cervical cytology, Pap smear, Screening, Squamous Intraepithelial Lesion (SIL)

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