Title: Cancer screening in middle-age women: mixed method approach

Authors: Enjezab*1 B, Farajzadegan2 Z, Talghani2 F, Aflatoonian3 A

*1 PhD candidate in reproductive health, Isfahan University of Medical Science, Isfahan Iran and Lecturer in midwifery, Shahid Sadoughi University of Medical Science, Yazd, Iran
2 faculty member in Isfahan University of Medical Science, Isfahan, Iran
3 professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Shahid Sadoughi University of Medical Science, Yazd, Iran

Abstract: Introduction:
Cancer is one of the common causes of incidence and mortality in the world. Each year more than 10 million new cases of cancer and more than 6 million deaths due to cancer worldwide. Now, cancer is the third cause of death in Iran and annually contributed in 30,000 cases of death in Iran. Although cause of cancers is cellular mutations but the most of the mutations are the result of interactions with the environment and therefore more than half of deaths are preventable. Early screening can prevent cancers and their mortality. In middle age increased incidence of many cancers including breast, cervical and colon. The present studies investigated the amount of screening for cancer in middle-aged women and explain the factors influencing with sequential mixed method approach.

Method:
483 middle-age women was selected with cluster random sampling in the quantitative phase and 12 middle-age women was selected with purposive sampling in the qualitative phase. In the first stage data gathering was done with questionnaire and analyzed with descriptive statistics and in the qualitative stage semi-structured interviews and observations, and having in the field notes were done and data were analyzed with content analysis.

Results:
The results showed that of 483 middle-aged women with a mean age of about 46 years old, the majority of women were housewives (%85.1), the average years of women's education was 6 years and the majority (%59.4) have educated under diploma. %64, %67.3, %78.7, 62.4% and 94.4% respectively never have done BSE, CBE, mammograms, Pap test, fecal occult blood test. Qualitative research results also showed that, lack of knowledge, the cost of the screening examinations, lack of financial independence of women and neglect their spouse, fear of cancer, embarrassment and the belief with want of God of the main obstacles to cancer screening and knowledge and observation of cancer in familiar persons were the most of the motives of cancer screening.

Conclusion:
Considering the prevalence of cancers in this age group, it need proper planning to increase awareness and need to training for spouses and providing to screening services in the healthy policies.

Key words:
Cancer screening, pap smear, BSE, CBE, mammography, fecal occult blood test, middle-age women

Presentation: Poster