

2nd World Congress on **CARDIOLOGY**

&

39th Annual Congress on

MICROBIOLOGY AND MICROBIAL INFECTION

July 23-24, 2018 | Rome, Italy

Jacques Choucair, Biomed Res 2018, Volume 29 | DOI: 10.4066/biomedicalresearch-C1-001



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Biography

Jacques Choucair is an Infectious Diseases Specialist in Hotel Dieu de France teaching hospital in Beyrouth. He has obtained his MD degree in 1994 from the Saint-Joseph University, Faculty of Medicine in Beyrouth. He has completed a two years fellowship from 1998-2000 at Bichat Claude Bernard Hospital and Bacteriology at Broussais Hospital affiliated to University of Paris V. He has received his diploma in Infectious Diseases (1999), Saint-Joseph University, Beyrouth. Since 2001, he is a Practitioner and ID Consultant in the Infectious Diseases Department at Hotel Dieu de France de Beyrouth Teaching Hospital. He also has completed Medical Teaching Diploma from the University of Montreal in Canada in 2003. He has published more than 30 articles and is a Reviewer in national and international journals. His main topics of interest are bacterial resistance and the proper use of antibiotics.

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WHAT DO LEBANESE WOMEN KNOW ABOUT CERVICAL CANCER AND HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS? A REPORT ON AWARENESS LEVELS IN URBAN COMMUNITIES

To evaluate the knowledge of Lebanese women about cervical cancer's symptoms and risk factors and human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. To measure the uptake of the cervical cancer screening test (Pap smear) and that of HPV vaccination.

Methods: 444 women residing in Beirut and Mount-Lebanon, with no medical background, filled out a 32 item questionnaire about cervical cancer and HPV. Collected data was exported to and analyzed in SPSS® v. 21.0.

Results: Most participants were young (45.7% aged 18 to 25), residing in Mount-Lebanon (51.8%), Christian (50.7%), single (49.3%), with high education qualifications (73.9%) and currently employed (49.1%) in a field not related to health (84.9%). 64.6% did not visit a general physician nor a gynecologist regularly. 85.6% were aware of cervical cancer. 53.9% correctly identified HPV infection involvement in the pathogenesis of cervical cancer. 35.6% were aware of HPV infection but 80.4% believed their information was lacking. 37.6% of participants had been screened by Pap smear for cervical cancer at least once in their lives whereas 9% did not know what a Pap smear was. Screening was significantly associated with cervical cancer awareness and regular visits to general health physicians and gynecologists. 11.7% of participants aged 18 to 35 were vaccinated against HPV. Vaccination uptake was significantly associated with cervical cancer awareness, religion, field of work and studies, and regular visits to gynecologists.

Conclusion: Urban Lebanese women are not well informed about cervical cancer and HPV. Screening by Pap smear and HPV vaccination uptakes are non-satisfactory.



Note: