



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Awareness, Prevalence and Health Seeking Behaviours Among Adult Patients Seeking Care in Ho Municipality

Category:

Communicable diseases (Malaria, TB, HIV, NTD)

Authors:

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Objectives:

The purpose of this study was to ascertain prevalent bacterial STIs, health-seeking behaviours, and knowledge of STIs among adult patients seeking STI care at three healthcare facilities within the Ho Municipality.

Method:

Data was collected between November 2020 and April 2021 from 178 patients who had suspected STIs using a cross-sectional study design. A well-structured questionnaire was used to gather information on the participants' demographics, knowledge, and health-seeking behaviours for STI therapy. Microbiological investigations were carried out by taking the participants' blood and urine samples to determine the pathogenic organism and particular STI. The significance of associations between the variables was determined using multiple logistic regression and chi-square analysis.

Results:

71.91% (n= 128) and 61.24% (n=109) of the participants were females and single respectively. The total prevalence of STIs was 24.72%. The highest rate was 11.24% (n=20) for gonorrhoea, with 10.11% (n=18) for chlamydia and 7.30% (n=13) for syphilis. A smaller percentage of participants (n= 23, 13%) had poor knowledge of STIs which did not correlate to a higher number of infections. 44.07% (n=78) of the participants had practiced self-medication whereas 87.08% (n=155) would rather go to the hospital for STI treatment. The likelihood of acquiring an STI was linked to behavioural and demographic factors such as smoking and marital status.

Conclusion:

Despite a high level of awareness of STIs, the prevalence did not seem to decline. This implies that other variables besides knowledge influence the STI menace. More research and targeted interventions are needed to reduce this STI burden.

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