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Cervical cancer screening utilization and associated factors among women living with HIV in Ethiopia, 2024: A Systematic review and meta-analysis**Amlaku Nigusie Yirsaw***University of Gondar, Ethiopia*

Cervical cancer poses a significant global health challenge, particularly in low-resource regions like sub-Saharan Africa, including Ethiopia. Women living with HIV (WLHIV) are at a six-fold higher risk of cervical cancer compared to their HIV-negative counterparts. However, both the availability of screening services and their utilization remain low among WLHIV, complicating efforts to reduce the cervical cancer burden in this vulnerable population.

Objective: This study aimed to synthesize current research on the prevalence of cervical cancer screening utilization and the factors associated with it among women living with HIV in Ethiopia.

Method: We conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis, searching databases such as Google Scholar, PubMed, and the Cochrane Library. Data were extracted, organized in Excel, and analyzed using STATA 17. The overall effect was calculated using a random-effect model, with publication bias and heterogeneity assessed through Egger's test, forest plots, and the I^2 statistic.

Result: The review and meta-analysis revealed that the overall prevalence of cervical cancer screening among WLHIV in Ethiopia was 24% (17% - 32%). Key factors associated with screening utilization included age, with odds ratios of 3.95 for those aged 40-49 and 5.021 for those aged 18-29. Additionally, higher education levels, good knowledge about cervical cancer, and awareness of the disease significantly increased screening rates. Other factors linked to higher utilization included a CD4 count of less than 500 cells/mm³ and being a government employee, along with perceived susceptibility to cervical cancer.

Conclusion: The findings highlight a low pooled prevalence of cervical cancer screening rates among WLHIV in Ethiopia. Interventions aimed at increasing screening should focus on age, education, knowledge, and systemic healthcare deficiencies.

Biography

Amlaku Nigusie Yirsaw (MPH, Lecturer) is a dedicated public health professional specializing in health promotion and health behavior. As a lecturer at the Institute of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Gondar, Ethiopia, he is committed to advancing public health education and research. His areas of interest include community health empowerment, disease prevention strategies, and behavioral change communication. Through his academic and professional endeavors, Dr. Yirsaw plays a vital role in shaping the next generation of public health leaders in Ethiopia and beyond.