

BACKGROUND

- Head and neck cancer (HNC) is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths worldwide (Gupta et al, 2016).
- Cigarette, a major source of tobacco (Figure 1), is a risk factor for HNC (WHO, 2008).
- Cancer education can effectively reduce the prevalence of risky pro-cancer behaviors among adolescents (Adamowicz et al, 2012).
- This study was conducted to: [1] determine the prevalence of smoking; [2] determine the level of awareness on HNC; [3] explore the attitudes of students in two secondary schools in Ibokun, Nigeria towards HNC education.

METHODS

- A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 198 Grades 9 to 12 students in two conveniently selected secondary schools in Ibokun town, Nigeria.
- Study tool was a self-administered questionnaire adapted from the Global Health Professionals Survey (GPHS) Questionnaire on tobacco use.
- Data collected were analyzed using SPSS version 16 software.



Figure 1: Tobacco smoke from cigarette

RESULTS

- The majority (54.0%) of the respondents were ≤14 years old, 56.6% were females, 41.9% were in Grade 10, 55.6% had a monogamous family background, and 30.3% were the first born child of their parents.
- Only 67.7% and 56.6% had ever heard of cigarettes and water pipe respectively.
- Only 87.4% had never smoked, 3.5% had quit smoking, 4.5% were smokers who desired to quit smoking, while only 2.0% were smokers who desired to continue smoking.
- Only 47.5% have heard of HNC before (Figure 2), and 31.8% indicated that they knew the symptoms of HNC.
- Only 81.8% would like to receive a comprehensive education on how to prevent HNC.

Awareness on HNC

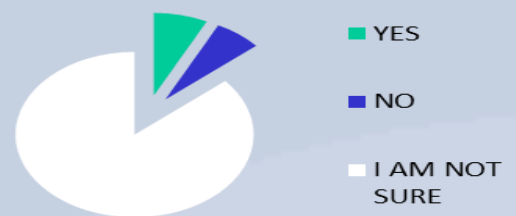


Figure 2: Awareness of HNC among respondents

CONCLUSIONS

- The prevalence of smoking among the respondents in this study is low. Many of them were unaware of HNC. Many of them love to be educated on HNC.

REFERENCES

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