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Barriers and Facilitators to Utilization of Cervical Cancer Screening Services in Eswatini: A Scoping Review

Obstacles et Facteurs Facilitant l'Utilisation des Services de Dépistage du Cancer du Col de l'Utérus en Eswatini : Une Revue de Portée

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: The implementation of cervical cancer screening programmes in Eswatini has been shown to be helpful in lowering both the occurrence and fatality rates associated with cervical cancer. However, there is a low level of screening participation among women.

AIM: To provide a comprehensive synthesis of the barriers and facilitators to the uptake of cervical screening services from the perspectives of the healthcare providers (supply side) and the individuals receiving the screening (demand side) in Eswatini.

METHODS: The review followed the guidelines set out by the PRISMA scoping review criteria of peer-reviewed research publications that were published during the last five years. The publications included in the study were primarily centred on the documentation of Eswatini's nationwide endeavours in cervical cancer screening. A total of four databases were used, namely Medline, PubMed, CINAHL, and Google Scholar.

RESULTS: A total of 16 records fulfilled the established criteria for inclusion. The research primarily examined many aspects related to the supply side of cervical cancer (CC) screening. These aspects included the training and skills of health workers, the extent of CC screening service coverage, the capacity of health services, and the resource limitations that contribute to inadequate implementation and delivery of CC screening services.

CONCLUSIONS: The outcomes of the review revealed the need for implementers to take into account the interplay between demand-side and supply-side elements that support the provision and acceptance of cervical cancer screening services.

CONTRIBUTION: The review presents evidence on barriers, enablers and practice in cervical cancer screening in Africa.

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KEYWORDS: Barriers, Facilitators, Cervical cancer, Sexual and reproductive health, Women's health, Eswatini

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE: La mise en œuvre des programmes de dépistage du cancer du col de l'utérus en Eswatini s'est révélée utile pour réduire la fréquence et la mortalité liées à cette maladie. Toutefois, le taux de participation des femmes au dépistage reste faible.

OBJECTIF: Fournir une synthèse complète des obstacles et des facteurs facilitant le recours aux services de dépistage du cancer du col de l'utérus, à la fois du point de vue des prestataires de soins (offre) et des bénéficiaires (demande) en Eswatini.

MÉTHODOLOGIE: La revue a suivi les directives du protocole PRISMA pour les revues de portée, en se basant sur des publications scientifiques évaluées par des pairs datant des cinq dernières années. Les travaux inclus portaient principalement sur les efforts nationaux d'Eswatini en matière de dépistage du cancer du col. Quatre bases de données ont été consultées: Medline, PubMed, CINAHL et Google Scholar.

RÉSULTATS: Seize documents ont satisfait aux critères d'inclusion. Les recherches ont surtout porté sur des éléments liés à l'offre de dépistage du cancer du col (CC), notamment la formation et les compétences des agents de santé, la couverture des services de dépistage, la capacité des services de santé, et les limitations de ressources qui entravent la mise en œuvre et la prestation adéquates des services.

CONCLUSIONS: Les résultats soulignent l'importance pour les acteurs de la mise en œuvre de considérer les interactions entre les facteurs liés à l'offre et à la demande afin de renforcer la fourniture et l'acceptation des services de dépistage du cancer du col de l'utérus.

APPORT: Cette revue apporte des données probantes sur les obstacles, les facilitateurs et les pratiques du dépistage du cancer du col de l'utérus en Afrique. **WAJM 2025; 42 (4): 312-320**

MOTS-CLÉS: Obstacles, Facilitateurs, Cancer du col de l'utérus, Santé sexuelle et reproductive, Santé des femmes, Eswatini

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