

ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional analytic study of knowledge and attitude towards breast cancer and breast self-examination (BSE) among nursing students was conducted in University of Nursing, Yangon from September to November 2014. A total of 216 nursing students from University of Nursing were surveyed by using pretested structured self-administered question with the general objectives of studying of the knowledge and attitude towards breast cancer and breast self-examination (BSE) among 3rd and final year nursing students. All the nursing students had ever heard about breast cancer. Only 25.5 % of respondents had high knowledge of breast cancer and BSE. About 96.3% knew the risk factors, 99.5% and 61.1% of respondents were able to identified lump in the breast and nipple discharge as symptoms of breast cancer respectively. Most respondents (96.8%) cited treatment modalities of breast cancer as surgery followed by radiotherapy (91.7%), chemotherapy (86.1%) and hormonal therapy (11.1%). Nearly all respondents (98.6%) mentioned breast cancer can be cured if it was detected early. About 98.6% expressed BSE as a method of early detection and 34.0% mentioned that after menstruation is the timing of BSE. About 25.9% of respondents had good level of attitude towards breast cancer and BSE. There was no association between knowledge and attitude towards breast cancer and BSE. The findings showed that information related to breast cancer and BSE among nursing students were inadequate. Nursing students should be encouraged to improve knowledge for breast cancer and breast self-examination (BSE) measures such as method, frequency and timing of BSE for early detection of breast cancer