

An Encounter Of Pregnant Women With Ultrasound Scan In Ghana

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SOURCE

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ABSTRACT

A critical review of an article on that sought evaluate the experience and perception of Ghanaian women in the use of ultrasound scan in antenatal care. A cross-sectional survey of three public hospitals in Ghana. The study used the random sampling method to select a total of 337 participants .The review a purposive sampling because the participants were chosen based on the researchers judgment of the qualifications of the respondents who undergone ultrasound scan during pregnancy and had delivered successfully, to take part in the study.

The study revealed that a good percentage of pregnant women were not given any information about ultrasound scan by health workers though most of these clients perceive the usefulness of ultrasound as a tool. The study recommended the need for health workers ,midwives, sonographers and obstetricians to give information about ultrasound scan to clients before and after the interventions.

KEYWORDS

Women, Ultrasound, Antenatal, Ghana, Medicine

INTRODUCTION

A critical review of the article entitled “the Ghanaian woman experience and perception of ultrasound use in antenatal care ” in the Ghana Medical Journal by the Ghana Medical

Association .The article will first of all be summarized .Then it will take a look into the effectiveness of the article's structure, finding out how the information is organized and whether readers can efficiently access it. The review also critique the article , evaluating its authority ,currency, accuracy, objectivity ,stability and conclusion. Lastly, the review will analyze data set out in tables , then results and conclusions drawn , before judging the article's accessibility . The article is not quite a detailed piece but it provides information that is quite understandable and relevant.

ARTICLE SUMMARY

The study is a cross sectional study using interviewer-administered questionnaires of pregnant clients of three public hospitals in Accra , namely Korle Bu Teaching Hospital , Ga South Hospital and University of Ghana hospital .The simple random sampling method was used to select a sample size of 337 respondents .The literature review was done from broad to specific in support of the ideas raised.

The purpose of the article is to evaluate the experience and perception of pregnant women in Ghana during ultrasound scanning. The study subjects were women who went through ultrasound scan during pregnancy. They assessed these pregnant women on their motivation to go for ultrasound scan ,the number of times each woman did the scanning, reasons for doing the scan and their perceptions of the benefits of ultrasound scan. Most of these respondents perceived the advantages of ultrasonography as sex determination which leads to emotional bonding between the mother and the fetus, presentation of the fetus and assessing fetal wellbeing. The article presented the data in tabular form according to the objectives. The findings were discussed according to the results presented . The article revealed inadequate information on antenatal ultrasound flow from the healthcare providers such as sonographers and midwives to clients and therefore recommended regular education to the clients.

ARTICLE STRUCTURE

The article was summarized under six subheadings. This brief summary of the article came before the main article. The objective of the study were outlined. The aim of the article was also briefly stated. The article , however was silent about the rationale of the study. The paragraphs were moderate in length and clearly identified. The sentences are not difficult to understand and makes locating vital points easy and accessible. The article was written under six subheadings including introduction, the method , results ,discussion ,conclusion and recommendations with a comprehensive information under each heading.

The article described a research study that was carried out by authors contained conventional information as required in such a study. The conclusion is short and at the end of the article. The last sections are the recommendations and references. The authors didn't recommend

further studies of the topic or any aspect in the future. The conclusion did not make brief mention of the main points and is also very short. References were cited in-text. The article was logically organized in structure. The article as retrieved now is in the form of PDF a document. The authors provided their address and link to access the article as well as that of the journal making accessibility easy for readers. The references were also provided at the end of the article for readers to evaluate.

ARTICLE CRITIQUE

AUTHORITY

The Ghana Medical Journal is a reputable medium for dissemination of healthcare and health science research findings. It is a journal published by the Ghana Medical Association which is an international recognized body. It is both local and international peer reviewed document that is under the African Journal Partnerships project that is funded by United National Library of Medicine and John .E. Forgarty International Center. Full text of articles published by the Ghana Medical Journal are published in Online (AJOL) and PubMed Central. It publishes articles about medicare and medical sciences. The Ghana Medical Journal is published by the council of the Ghana Medical Association. The credibility of the author and co-author is established by their qualification as PhD holders who are medical practitioners as well as lecturers at the Ghana Medical school, Korle Bu. The authors provided their postal boxes and a link to the journal article in the net. Which may sometimes not be accessible because of net work connectivity.

ACCURACY

The source of the information is a current article of a project on the ultrasound scan of pregnant women in Ghana who delivered successful. It provided a reference list with the sources cited in text to support the literature and the research itself. The strict editing is done by academics who are well qualified. They are members of the Ghana Medical Association, an association of medics of different specialties. They are also of good academic and professional.

The editing and referencing is done according to recommended standards contributed to the article's accuracy. The authors clearly indicated that sampling method used is simple random sampling method.

In my personal observation the study subjects were registered clients at the antenatal clinics of the hospitals under study. The method used is more of purposive sampling rather than random sampling because the researcher has some knowledge about pregnant women undergoing ultrasound scan and therefore has made prior judgment to study these pregnant women who undergone ultrasound scan and had delivered successful. According to Grove S.K and Burns,N,(2008) ,in a Purposive sampling or selecting sampling, the researcher

consciously selects certain subjects ,elements ,events ,or incidents to include in the study. Efforts may be made to include typical or atypical subjects or situations. The researcher may select subjects who are of various ages , those who have differences in diagnosis or severity of illness or those who receive an ineffective treatment rather than an effective treatment for their illnesses.

The researcher did not indicate the formula used in the sampling.

CURRENCY

The article was published in March, 2014.It is listed among the current articles in the journal. The article described the experiences and perceptions of pregnant women of ultrasound scan is a current health issue that will help address the knowledge gap about the reasons for ultrasound scan of pregnant women in Ghana. The research was however limited to facilities in the national capital. The author did not indicate why the national capital is endowed with private hospitals which none was not included in the study settings. The article cited references from 1997 to 2012 in the body of the text. The issues sought to be address by the article pertains to the current situation in the hospitals in Ghana so far as ultrasound scan of pregnant women is concerned. Invariably, most practitioners do not educate or provide information on any intervention carried out on their clients.

RELEVANCE

This is a journal on academic and professional medical/health issues . It has credibility in the context of health and medical education disciplines. It is relevant to physicians ,obstetricians , medical students, midwives and nurses in their practices in antenatal and post-natal units. The article is easy to read and understand and therefore can be of help to final year students. In spite of such relevance of the use of ultrasound scan , abuse of the technology could affect the sex ratio of new born babies . In certain cultures, sometimes people have preference for male gender and so if they the sex of the foetus intra uterine is known through ultrasound scan which does not meet their expectation .Many of them may abort their babies if they know that the fetus is not the gender they expected (Wu,2001). A case in point is that , in Northern Ghana, most where parents prefer male children because of patrilineal inheritance . A knowledge of the sex of fetus before birth may not be acceptable if the father knows that is the 5th or 6th baby girl.

On the contrary if the women knows the presentation of the baby will attend hospital immediately labour commences to avoid prolong labour or its complications eventually eliminating or reducing maternal mortality.

OBJECTIVITY

The information was well supported with current research material and with all evidences acknowledged. The information was objectively developed by the authors using three public hospitals as the study facilities in the national capital, Accra. The researcher used the simple

random sampling method and also the format of selection of samples from the various hospitals so as to reduce bias. The process meet standard research process as they were mindful of the ethical demands by the Forgary Foundation of the United States which funded the research project and research ethics in general. The article contains several issues raised in the literature review. It provided explanation of some few key terms discussed such as pregnancy , ultrasound examination and antenatal. The related literature was reviewed and referenced . The subjects understudy were well defined . The sample size of 337 pregnant women was used as the sample. They were randomly selected across the three hospitals : Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. University of Ghana hospital and Ga south District hospital, Weija. The findings of the study is relevant to health education practitioners , midwives , obstetricians , sonographers , medical doctors and students and future pregnant women. The findings will equip care givers with the knowledge caring for pregnant women in the future. The finding can inform research in that area in the future. The researcher did not however indicate any future areas that deserve further investigations.

STABILITY

The article is in an academic and professional journal, i.e the Ghana Medical Journal is on data base such as PubMed central and available online at the Africa Journals Online (AJOL).The article is freely accessible and relevant to users such as medical students and practitioners, nurses ,obstetrician, sonographers and the general public who are interested in exploring knowledge. These makes the journal thus a stable source .

Graphs

The authors did not present the data in a graphical form. The presentation of data was rather done in tabular form. The graphical presentation gives an instance understanding of the trend of the data to the reader just at a glance. The study is fit as a social research . Social researchers often deal with large amounts of data ,e.g in a typical survey , by the completion of data collection phase, thousands of responses represented by a jumble of numbers .To make sense out of such data , one needs to organize and summarize them in a system fashion . The most basic method for organizing data is to classify the observations into frequency distributions.www.sagepub.com/upm-data/43436_zpdf 16/08/2014.The data presented tables clearly that depicts the data. The tables conforms to current standards of presenting data in tabular form. The tables are succinct and did not carry unnecessary information.

CONCLUSION

The article “the Ghanaian woman experiences and perception of ultrasound use in antenatal care”. has been critically reviewed and summarized .The content was clear and understandable . The structure , strengths and limitations of the article and critiqued . The article will add to existing literature and will serve as a source of references in future studies. The findings revealed sonographers, midwives, physicians and obstetricians not giving adequate information about the reasons for ultrasound scan to pregnant women. The findings

are used in education of pregnant about the use of ultrasound scan during antenatal care. It also equips the, technicians, physicians and obstetricians the knowledge and obligation to educate the pregnant women during ultrasound scan.

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