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EVALUATION OF ACCEPTABILITY OF SELF-COLLECTED VAGINAL SWAB TO DETECT HPV INFECTION AMONG YOUNG WOMEN IN MONGOLIA



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BACKGROUND AND AIMS

Self-collected vaginal samples is a new approach to detect sexually transmitted diseases. The aim of the study was to evaluate acceptability of self swabbing technique in Mongolia.



METHODS

365 young women (18-22 years old) were offered self vaginal sampling using flocked self vaginal swabs (FLOQSwab, Copan, Italy) at hospital following swab instructions in December 2017 - January 2018. Participants completed a Questionnaire to assess acceptability and feasibility of self swabbing technique. Swabs were placed in PreservCyt solution and processed for detection of HPV.

RESULTS

86.8% of participants found that FLOQSwabs were easy to use and 97.8% found instructions clear and comprehensive. Most of the participants preferred standing position with the legs apart (56.7%), with less preference of sitting forward on a toilet with the legs apart position (25.5%) and one foot resting on the toilet rim position (15.5%). 73.2% indicated that they did not experienced pain during sampling. Majority of participants (65.7%) preferred to provide self swabbing rather than collected by physician. The reason for preference of vaginal self sampling, was greater privacy (38.6%), time saving (22.7%), less anxiety (21.9%) and all these 3 reasons (15.6%).

CONCLUSION

The vaginal self sampling is new method in Mongolia and has shown as an acceptable method to collect vaginal swabs. Most of participants preferred standing position to collect samples and expressed preference of this method due to provision of greater privacy, time savings and reduction of anxiety. This method could increase the uptake of HPV and other STD testing among young women in Mongolia.

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