PIII-22: Assessing retention of knowledge of ovarian cancer in baccalaureate nursing students

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Abstract:
Introduction: Approximately 22,500 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year and 70% of these women will die from their disease. Early detection significantly improves survival rates; however, the majority of women are diagnosed with advanced disease. Education related to symptoms and early detection of ovarian cancer is needed at all levels of healthcare. The purpose of this study was to examine retention of knowledge in nursing students participating in the Nurses Educational Initiative (NEI), an program focusing on risk factors, symptoms and early detection of ovarian cancer.

Method(s): Descriptive design was used. Undergraduate baccalaureate nursing students in a large southeastern university in the US were recruited through convenience sampling. 107 students were included. The NEI survey, a 16 question, multiple choice tool was used to measure knowledge related to risk factors, symptoms and early detection methods for ovarian cancer. Demographics were also included. Data were collected at 3 time points: Time 1 (prior to NEI), Time 2 (immediately after NEI) and Time 3 (18 months after NEI). Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics & paired t-tests. Bonferroni corrections were used bringing the significance level to 0.017 (.05/3). Overall knowledge was measured by summing the number of correct answers on each subject’s survey (highest possible score = 19. Knowledge of individual items was evaluated using frequencies and percentages.

Results: At Time 1, mean overall knowledge score for ovarian cancer was 11.34 (SD=2.76). At Time 2, it was 16.43 (SD=1.78), and at Time 3, 13.35 (SD=2.27). Paired t tests showed a
significant increase from Time 1 to Time 2 (t(106)=-19.071, p=.000) and a significant decrease
from Time 2 to Time 3 (t(106)=13.022, p=.000). Retention of individual items will also be
presented.

Discussion & Conclusions: Students improved their knowledge about ovarian cancer
immediately after the NEI and were able to retain some knowledge over time. While
undergraduate nursing students are actively learning about risk, symptoms and early detection of
disease, this study demonstrates that reinforcement is needed over time. Lack of retention may
have a negative effect on client care. Implications for practice and research will be addressed.

Abstract History:
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS
or other scientific meeting.

Financial Disclosure:
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own
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