

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: JNHM- 150

Title: The effectiveness of an educational program on the women's attitude regarding early detection of breast cancer

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			✓	
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer's ID: JPR-Bilqees Hamza

Detailed Reviewer's Report

This quasi-experimental study evaluates the impact of a structured educational program on women's attitudes regarding the early detection of breast cancer. Conducted at Al-Hilla Teaching Hospital in Babylon, Iraq, the trial included 160 women divided into an intervention group ($n=80$) receiving four theoretical sessions on risk factors, warning signs, and screening methods, and a control group ($n=80$) receiving standard care. Assessment was carried out using a 10-item, 3-point Likert scale questionnaire.

The findings demonstrate a significant positive shift in attitude within the intervention group. Baseline attitudes in the study cohort were predominantly negative (46%) or moderate (48%), with only 6% holding a positive attitude. Post-intervention, positive attitudes rose to 44%, while negative attitudes dropped to 18% ($\chi^2=36.99$, $P<0.001$). In contrast, the control group showed no significant change ($\chi^2=0.65$, $P<0.75$). Higher post-intervention attitude scores were significantly associated with higher educational levels ($P=0.031$) and receiving information from reliable sources ($P=0.011$), whereas age and marital status showed no statistically significant association.

The authors conclude that educational interventions effectively enhance positive attitudes toward early screening and recommend implementing similar programs in clinical and community settings to foster earlier diagnosis and improve clinical outcomes.

Recommendations for Improvements

- **Standardize Inconsistent Terminology and Typographical Errors:** The manuscript contains several typographical errors and inconsistent reporting that require revision. For instance, the

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results section of the abstract mentions a baseline-to-post-intervention decrease in negative attitudes from "46 to 18%" without percent formatting consistency, and the discussion erroneously references "Before surgery" instead of before the intervention. Additionally, the conclusion section states that knowledge improved ($p=0.000$), despite the primary focus of the manuscript and tools being attitude assessment.

- **Expand Analysis on Knowledge and Behavioral Outcomes:** While the title and methodology focus on attitudes, the narrative frequently blends knowledge, beliefs, and practice. Clarifying whether knowledge was formally scored alongside attitude—and providing explicit baseline versus post-test mean scores—would significantly strengthen the statistical presentation.
- **Detail Sampling and Randomization Logistics:** The methodology notes a "non-randomized purposive sample" that was subsequently "randomly allocated" to groups. The authors should clarify the exact method of allocation to resolve the contradiction between purposive sampling and random assignment.

Final Recommendation

Recommendation: Minor Revisions