

An Intervention Study of Reproductive Tract Infections among Married Women of Reproductive Age in Shanghai

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Objective To evaluate the impacts of reproductive tract infections (RTIs) intervention on RTIs-related knowledge, attitudes, practices and prevalence of married women at reproductive age.

Methods Four sub-districts from Xuhui district, Shanghai were selected by multistage cluster random sampling and residence committees were randomly assigned to either an intervention group or a control one. RTIs intervention was implemented in intervention group, while routine family planning program was conducted in control group.

Results Compared with control group, intervention group have improved the following targets: the increment of RTI knowledge score was higher than that in control group (OR=9.22, 95%CI:7.01-12.14); the increment score of individual health behaviors (6.31) was higher than that in control group (4.50) (OR=1.60, 95%CI: 1.21-2.10); the increase of condom use frequency in intervention group was higher than that in control group (4.12% vs 0.69%) (OR=1.84, 95%CI: 1.31-2.57); the decreased RTIs rate was higher than that in control group (7.45% vs 0.96%) (OR=0.68, 95%CI: 0.49-0.95).

Conclusion It is an effective way to conduct community-based intervention to increase women's RTIs knowledge, improve RTIs-related attitudes, promote good individual health behaviors, so as to decrease RTIs prevalence.

Key words: reproductive tract infections; health education; condom; counseling

Reproductive tract infections (RTIs) are a group of infectious diseases due to bacteria, viruses, chlamydia, fungi and other pathogens invasion. They have three transmission routes: sexually transmission, endogenous transmission and iatrogenic transmission^[1]. RTIs can

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cause serious physical and psychological harm, and this harm is not limited only to the women themselves, but also a serious threat to their next generation, and may cause heavy social and economic burden. Therefore, they have become the main public health problems all over the world, especially in the developing countries. Researches showed that the occurrence of woman RTIs was highly associated with women's related health knowledge, the establishment of their own ideas and attitudes towards health and behaviors adoption and change.

Accordingly, this present community-based study was conducted to interfere with the married women of child-bearing age and finally the intervention effects were assessed, in order to explore the health education and service model that will be suitable for Chinese national conditions.

Materials & Methods

Subjects

Four sub-districts (Fenglin, Hunan, Hongmei and Changqiao) from Xuhui district, Shanghai were selected as research spots by multistage cluster random sampling. In each sub-districts, several residence committees were randomly assigned to either an intervention group or a control group. Altogether 1 295 subjects were enrolled in the baseline survey, including 650 women in the intervention group and 645 women in the control.

Methods

Through baseline survey and final evaluation investigation, this study compared the changes in the knowledge, behaviors and occurrence of RTIs before and after the project study, to assess the impact of intervention. Structured-questionnaires survey, gynecological examination and laboratory test were conducted both before and after the intervention. The intervention was composed of Publicity and service provision. The publicity included diffusing advocacy materials, holding seminars on knowledge of RTIs, and VCD broadcast, while the service provision included women with RTIs follow-up, consultation and condom provision.

Data analysis

SAS8.2 software was used to analyze data. When compared the demographic characteristics between the two groups, χ^2 test was used, and logistic regression was used for influencing factor analysis.

Results

General characteristics of subjects

Altogether 1 295 married women participated in the baseline survey, including 650 subjects in intervention group and 645 subjects in control group. And 1 065 participated in the final evaluation, 561 and 504 respectively in the two groups. The rate of follow-up was 82.24%, and the rate of lost follow-up in control group (13.69%) was a little higher than that in intervention group (21.86%).

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