

Knowledge of antenatal patients on fetal anomaly screening in Northern Nigeria

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Objective

This study determined the knowledge of antenatal patients on fetal anomaly screening by fetal anomaly ultrasound scans.

Methods

This was a cross sectional study conducted among 122 pregnant women attending antenatally in ABUTH Zaria. A structured questionnaire on maternal biometrics and knowledge of patients to anomaly screening was used as the instrument of data collection and the result analysed.

Results

A total of 122 antenatal patients were included in the final analysis. 49 (40.2%) subjects had never heard of an anomaly scan while 73 (59.8%) had. The commonest source of knowledge of those who had heard about anomaly screening was through health talk given during antenatal visits (75.34%) followed by friends (9.5%). 108 (88.52%)subjects were not aware at which gestational age anomaly scans are performed while 14 (11.48%) were. 80 (65.57%) felt that fetal anomalies could be prevented while 37 (30.33%) believed it was not preventable. The remaining 5 (4.10%) were not aware if anomalies were preventable.

Conclusion

This study showed about half of the subjects were aware of the anomaly scan, the commonest source being health talks given during antenatal even though most didn't know at what gestational age it is performed and the majority believed fetal anomalies are preventable.