

Prevalence of Female Genital Cutting Amongst Antenatal Clinic Attendees at the Rivers State University Teaching Hospital

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Abstract— Nigeria currently has the largest number of women who have experienced Female Genital Cutting (FGC) in the world due to size of its large population. This is despite the increasing efforts at national and sub-national levels to abolish this unacceptable cultural practice.

Keywords — Prevalence, FGC, ANC attendees, RSUTH.

OBJECTIVE

To determine the prevalence of FGC amongst antenatal clinic attendees (ANC) at the Rivers State University Teaching Hospital (RSUTH) and identify the new pattern and socio-economic determinants.

METHOD

It was a cross sectional study of 84 ANC attendees at the RSUTH. Simple randomized sampling method was used for the recruitment of respondents. Respondents who had FGC in the past were identified by self-reporting. The information was retrieved using a self structured questionnaire and analyzed using SPSS version 25.

RESULTS

The mean age was 30.7 years. The modal parity was 1. The mean gestational age was 15.8 weeks. Twenty (23.8%) respondents through self-reporting said to have had FGC in the past. As regards practice of FGC by respondents 18 (21.4%) believed it was a good practice while 66 (78.6%) believed it was wrong. The 2 most common reasons for FGC were to prevent promiscuity 7 (8.3%) and cultural reasons 7 (8.3%). Bleeding from the genital tract 24 (28.6%) was the commonest complication from FGC.

CONCLUSION

The prevalence of FGC at the RSUTH is above the national average. Efforts to reduce the prevalence of the disease should focus on educating the target women of the hospital on the worthlessness of the practice.