



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 955

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Enhancing Effective Genetic Counseling: Telephone Interview at C5 Breast Centre, Tung Wah Hospital (TWH)

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Keywords:

genetic counseling

breast team

telephone interview

Introduction

The Breast Centre of Tung Wah Hospital is the only public hospital to provide a genetic counseling program in Hong Kong. The proposed of using a telephone interview by a trained nurse will help to enhance the efficiency of using a genetic clinic. It also demonstrated a proactive approach towards genetic counseling.

Objectives

To build up a closer relationship through a team approach towards genetic counseling. It can enhance psychological reassurance and promote better understanding on breast screening.

Methodology

It is a convenience sampling using a structured telephone interview guideline designed for the interview section. Once referral letter was received, the trained nurse would conduct the telephone interview within two weeks. It helps to deliver an effective way for selection of suitable patients for genetic counseling and explanation the importance of risk assessment prior to clinic appointment.

Result

A total of 332 referral letters were received since March 2007 to 30 September 2012. Among the 332 candidates, 16 out of 332 cases refused the telephone interview and 12 candidates were not eligible for genetic counseling. A proportion of patients voiced anxiety towards genetic counseling and did not understand the purpose of referral to genetic counseling. All showed a positive outcome towards the telephone interview with increase awareness to breast screening.