

Pharmacy workers' knowledge and provision of medical abortion

A study of pharmacy workers in Kenya

Presenter: Dr Njunguru Jesse

Authors :Kate Reiss, Katharine Footman, Thoai D Ngo, Vitalis Akora, Michael Njuma, Jesse Njunguru, Wilson Liambila

Background



Objectives

To assess pharmacy workers' knowledge of using mifepristone and/or misoprostol for MA in Kenya

To assess pharmacy workers' provision of MA information and services



Methods

Design: Cross sectional survey among pharmacy workers in 2013

Location: Three largest cities in Kenya: Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu

Population: Pharmacies selected from lists of all registered outlets in each city

Methodologies:

1. Knowledge, attitudes and practice survey (KAP)

300 pharmacies sampled at random, 100 from each city

1 face-to-face interview per outlet

235 interviews were completed

2. Mystery client survey

12 women posted as clients seeking abortion services without a prescription to pharmacies that had consented to being visited

401 visits conducted among 138 pharmacies

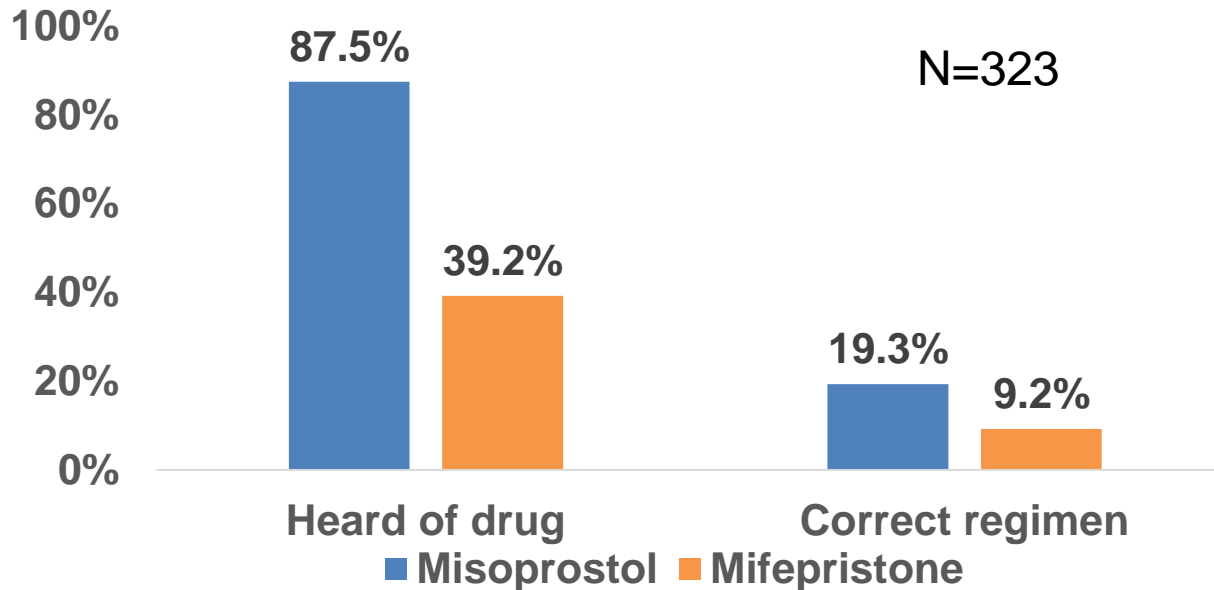
Within one hour of visit, mystery client completed a structured questionnaire

Ethical approvals: Kenya Medical Research Institute, Marie Stopes International Ethical Review Committee, Population Council International Review Board

Results: Study population

Characteristics	N	%
Total	235	100
Gender		
Male	120	51.5
Female	113	48.5
Age (years)		
22-27	66	29.6
28-34	115	51.6
35+	42	18.8
Education		
Secondary education	15	6.5
College	190	81.9
University	27	11.6
Training received to dispense medicines		
No training received	11	4.8
Training received	217	95.2

Findings: Knowledge



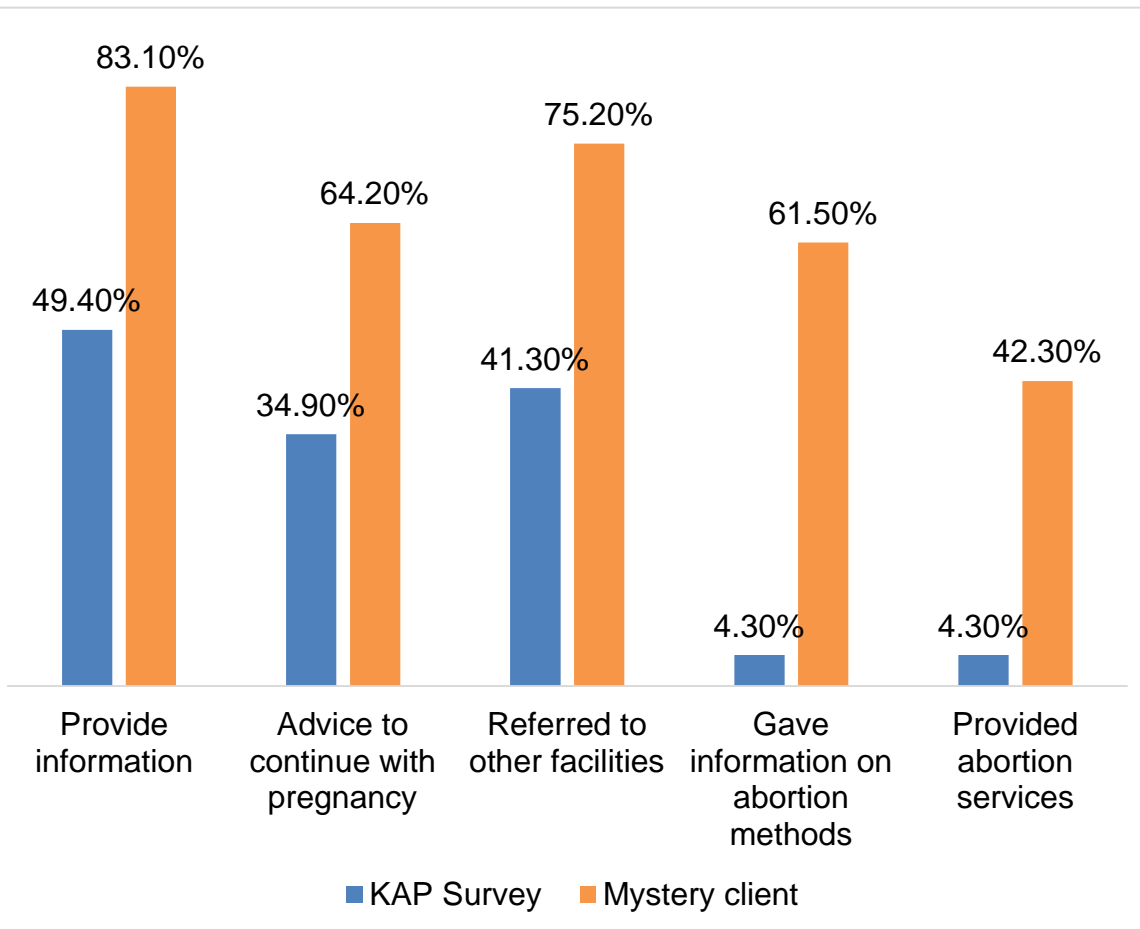
Familiarity with misoprostol higher than combination regimen

Low knowledge of correct regimen, registration status, potential side effects and abortion complications

13.7% had received abortion training

45.5% wanted more information or training on abortion services

Findings: Reported and actual provision practices



Provision of information was more common than provision of services.

Advising women to continue with their pregnancies was common

Self-reported provision of medical abortion information and services was low, but 42% of pharmacies offered MA services to clients.

Implications

- Pharmacy workers play an important role in providing information and referrals to clients seeking abortion
- However they lack adequate training and knowledge of MA drugs and legal status
- Quality of care provided may be poor if women are not advised about side effects and complications, and there are missed opportunities for family planning
- In/pre-service training of pharmacy workers in MA can improve the quality of care provided and increase access to safe abortion
- Strengthen referral linkages
- Research to measure impact of interventions on quality of care needed

Acknowledgements

Population Council Kenya for collaborating on study design and data collection

STEP UP consortium for funding the study



Thank you

Call us on 0800 720 005
(Toll Free)
www.mariestopes.or.ke