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Factors influencing health seeking behaviour among Type 2

Diabetes Mellitus patients visiting Coast Provincial

General Hospital Mombasa, Kenya 2011

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ABSTRACT

Diabetes affects people worldwide and is becoming a major public health problem posing significant socio-economic challenges. The International Diabetes Federation estimated in 2009 that the global number of adults with diabetes will increase by 54%, from 284.6 million in 2010 to 438.4 million in 2030. The main objective of this study was to determine factors influencing health seeking behaviour among Type 2 diabetes mellitus patients visiting Coast Provincial General Hospital Mombasa, Kenya. This was a descriptive cross sectional study which involved a total of 250 respondents who were randomly selected. The study utilized quantitative method. Questionnaires were used as the method of data collection. Data was entered into the Statistical Package for Social Scientists computer packages and was analysed using *Epi info version*. Three quarters of the respondents (70%) were aged 50 years and above and female respondents constituted 78.7%. Nearly half of the respondents (40.8%) had other chronic conditions including high blood pressure alongside diabetes. Level of education and knowledge of diabetes status was significantly associated with utilization of health facility for diabetes care ($P < 0.001$). Gender, income levels, occupation and age of the respondents were not significantly associated with utilization of health facility for diabetes healthcare ($P = 0.415$, $P = 0.297$, $P = 0.517$ and $P = 0.650$). The study concludes that education levels and individual knowledge of diabetic status among diabetic patients influences utilization of diabetes healthcare hence affecting the overall management of diabetes.