

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the abortion rate in Viet Nam had trended down after years of continuous increase. However, the abortion rate among adolescents has increasingly redeveloped. This poses challenges for reproductive health care in this population. The objective of this research was to describe our findings related to reproductive health in this age group, as well as related factors, at Hanoi Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital. The research comprised a cross-sectional descriptive study of 51 adolescents seeking abortion at Hanoi Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018. Participants were interviewed directly by questionnaire to collect information.

RESULTS

Characteristics	N	%
Age (Mean=16.3; Min=12; Max=18)		
10 - 13	0	0
14 - 16	24	47,1
17 - 18	27	52,9
Education of parent		
Illiterate	1	2,0
Can read and write	3	5,9
Primary school graduate	33	64,7
Junior high school graduate	12	23,5
High school graduate	2	3,9
College graduate or Post-graduate	0	0
Parental marital status		
Married	43	84,3
Partner/Separated/Divorced/Widowed	8	15,7
Family economy status		
Poor	13	25,5
Average	30	58,8
Rich	8	15,7

Table 1. Characteristics (n=51)

Knowledge	n	%
Contents about reproductive health		
Good	14	27,5
Not good	37	72,5
The dangers of abortion		
Good	5	9,8
Not good	46	90,2
Place of abortion		
Good	47	92,2
Not good	4	7,8
Contraceptive methods		
good	12	23,5
Not good	39	76,5

Table 2. Knowledge about reproductive health (n=51)

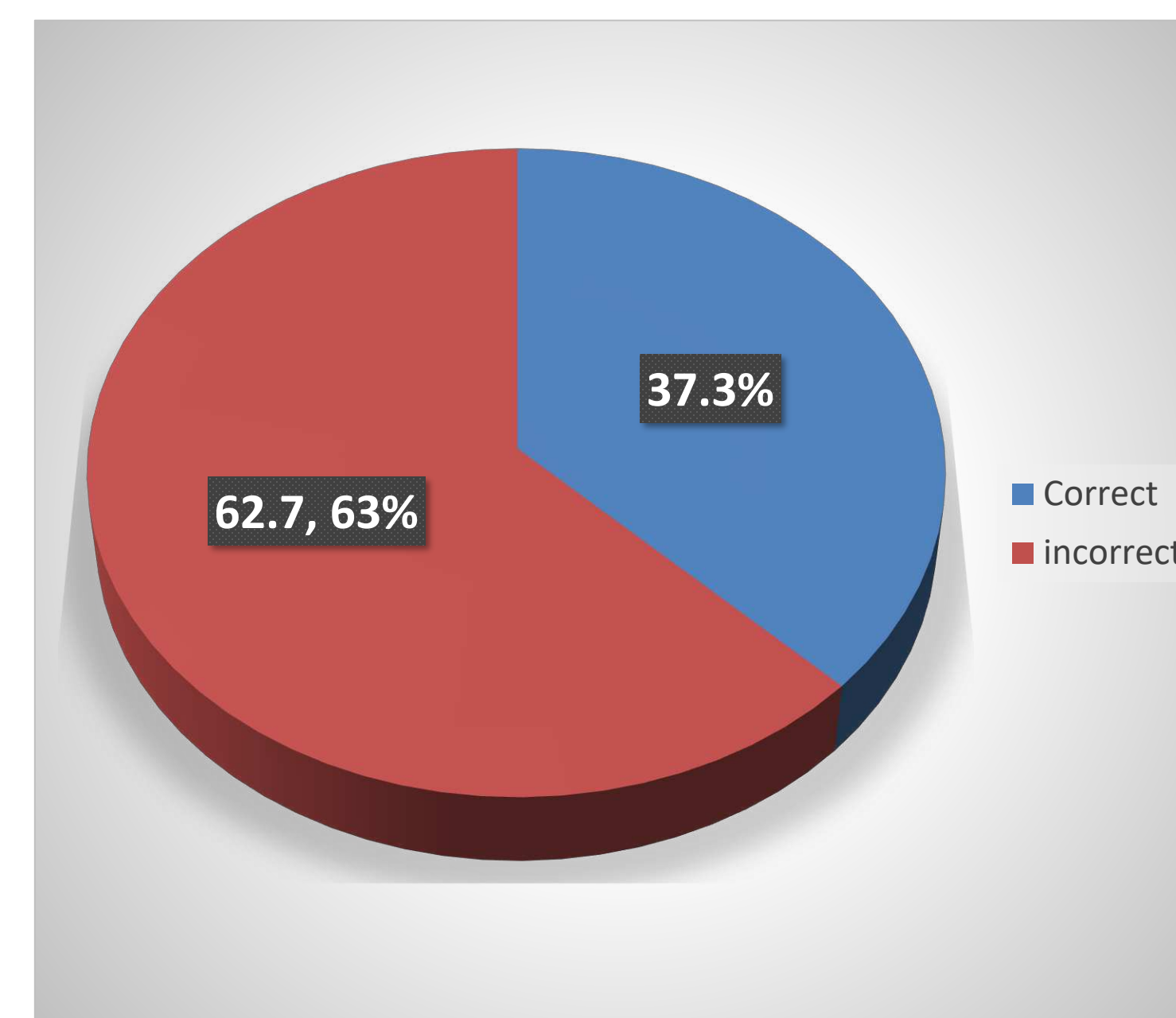


Fig 1. General attitude about reproductive health (n=51)

Practice	n	%
Talk to parents about reproductive health		
Having confided in parents	23	45,1
Do not confide with parents	28	54,9
Access to reproductive health information		
Regularly	1	2,0
Sometimes	24	47
No access	26	51
Level of using contraceptive methods		
Regularly	4	7,8
Sometimes	23	45,1
No used	24	47,1
Type of contraceptive used		
condom	27	53
Emergency contraceptive pills	23	45
Calculate your menstrual cycle / Vaginal ejaculation	1	2

Table 3. Practice about reproductive health (n=51)

Knowledge		Good		Not good		p
		n	%	n	%	
Education	Junior high school	0	0	21	100	>0,05
	High school	1	3,3	29	96,7	
Education of parent	Illiterate	0	0	1	100	<0,05
	Can read and write	0	0	3	100	
	Primary school graduate	1	3,0	32	97	
	Junior high school graduate	0	0	12	100	
	High school graduate	0	0	2	100	
Parental marital status	College graduate or Post-graduate	1	2,3	42	97,7	>0,05
	Married	0	0	8	100	
Family economic status	Partner/Separated/Divorced/Widowed	0	0	13	100	<0,05
	Poor	1	3,3	29	96,7	
	Average	0	0	8	100	

Table 4. Factors related to knowledge about reproductive health (n=51)

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The average age of adolescents seeking abortion was 16.3 years. Three quarters of the respondents had parents still living together (84.3%). Family economy was average (58.8%). The majority of the population did not have general knowledge concerning reproductive health issues such as dangers of abortion, a safe place to seek an abortion, or contraceptive methods (> 72%). Similarly, with regard to individual feelings, emotions, beliefs, and behaviors expressed toward reproductive health, only 37.3% had the correct attitude. Our research further discovered the contents of studies that mentioned a "gap" in current reproductive health communication and education. In addition, respondents were afraid to share their reproductive health issues with parents (> 50%), and only 2.0% of parents later discover this information. Lack of knowledge and incorrect attitudes tend to lead to unsafe sex, causing serious consequences such as unwanted pregnancy and potential abortion. More than 90% of respondents rarely use, or do not use, contraception. The two methods of choice preferred by most respondents were condoms and emergency contraceptive pills. When looking for factors related to knowledge concerning reproductive health, parents' education status and family economic conditions were linked to knowledge of the study subjects.

Conclusion: The research results show that most adolescents who come for abortion have poor knowledge, attitudes, and practices involving reproductive health. Their knowledge of reproductive health is linked to educational levels, as well as parent and family economic conditions. The findings of this study emphasize the need to provide reproductive health care information and services to adolescents, as well as the need for appropriate attention from both family and society to the target group. This is to improve their health as well as avoid unfortunate consequences.

REFERENCES

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CONTACT

Thuong Phan Thi Huyen, M.D

Delivery Department Hanoi Obstetrics & Gynecology Hospital, Hanoi, Vietnam

Email: phanhuyenthuong@gmail.com

Tel: +84.989.330.139

