

ABSTRACT

Background

Although the pneumococcal conjugate Vaccines (PCV-10) was launched in Uganda at the beginning of the second quarter of 2013 and thereafter rolled out on the Uganda National Expanded Program on Immunization (UNEPI) in January 2014 targeting the under- fives as a free and compulsory vaccine with projected estimates that it would potentially prevent between 840- 94,071 new cases of pneumonia and 465-10,796 deaths from pneumococcal infections (WHO, 2015), the morbidity and mortality trends from the pneumonia disease seem to be less significantly affected. The study sought to explore the knowledge, attitude and practices of lactating mothers to children below one year attending Apapai Health Centre IV in Serere district towards the use of pneumococcal conjugate vaccination.

Methodology: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted and data was collected from 80 mothers using researcher-administered questionnaires. Out of 80 questionnaires, 78 were completely filled thus giving a response rate of 98% and analysis was done using SPSS with univariate and bivariate procedures.

Results: Results showed that majority of mothers knew that pneumococcal vaccine was important in preventing pneumonia among children.

Conclusion: The study concluded that majority of children had completed their dosages by the study period and that mothers' response towards pneumococcal vaccination program was good.

Recommendation: The study recommends that more effort should be put by the health workforce to give appropriate and vaccine specific information in order to empower more women and encourage men to support mothers on immunization days