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FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH LOW UPTAKE OF VISUAL INSPECTION WITH ACETIC ACID AND  
CERVICOGRAPHY (VIAC) AMONG FEMALE NURSES AT UNITED BULAWAYO HOSPITALS.

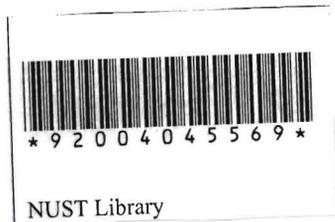
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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MASTER OF  
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## ABSTRACT

**Study Title:** Factors associated with low uptake of Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIAC) and Cervicography among female nurses at United Bulawayo Hospitals (UBH).

**Background Information:** Cervical cancer is a burden worldwide particularly in developing nations. Early screening is the golden standard for prevention. Ten female nurses died of cervical cancer between 2013 and 2014 at UBH and statistics indicated poor VIAC utilisation among female nurses. Nurses play a pivotal role in the success of the VIAC programme as they are role models in the community. Nurses as women need protection from cervical cancer.

### Objectives:

To assess the level of knowledge female nurses have on VIAC screening.

To determine the attitude of UBH female nurses towards VIAC screening.

To identify the factors associated with low uptake of VIAC utilisation among female nurses at UBH.

**Methodology:** A quantitative descriptive study design was conducted among randomly sampled 250 female nurses at UBH, using self-administered questionnaires. Analysis using SPSS Version 16.0 was done.

**Results:** Most nurses were knowledgeable on indications for VIAC screening (72.8%), the immediate availability of VIAC results (86.6%) and repeat VIAC screening recommendations for HIV positive (84.6%) and HIV negative women (77.7%). Misconceptions included the idea that VIAC was only important for women with high risk sexual behaviors (86%) and 20% of the

nurses were not sure of the timing of VIAC screening post-delivery.

Generally the nurses exhibited positive attitudes towards VIAC screening services and indicated willingness to undergo VIAC examination themselves (90.5%). Barriers of VIAC utilization identified as perceived discomfort (56.8%), being screened by a colleague (51.8%), inconvenient screening times (60.5%) and the assumption that HIV testing is compulsory prior to VIAC screening (56.5%).

**Conclusion:** This study concludes that nurses at UBH had good knowledge on VIAC and positive attitudes towards VIAC screening. Barriers identified included perceived discomfort, embarrassment of being screened by a colleague, inconvenient screening times including the assumption that HIV testing is a compulsory prerequisite of VIAC screening.

**Key words:** cervical cancer, qualified female nurses, VIAC screening, uptake of VIAC screening.