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Introduction

This is a case study set in the north of England. It explores respectful care, and discrimination based on certain attitudes.

Note on the case study

This case study was written by Dr Dalia Saidan MRCOG, a trainer of the RCOG Emergency Obstetric Skills course.

Case Study

Anna is a 47 year old lady living in the north of England. She has four children. She is a smoker and had never had a smear test. She states that she had defaulted screening as she did not like the idea of having a smear test. She presented acutely to the gynaecology department with abdominal pain and PV bleeding. An inpatient CT scan showed a cervical mass, obstructing her ureters. The diagnosis was advanced cervical cancer.

When Anna was told about her diagnosis, she was told that she should have had smears and that had she had smears she would not have had developed cancer. The consultant told her that it was her fault, stating, "What did you expect after not having the screening offered to you?"

Discussion – questions to be asked by the facilitator

1. What are your first impressions about this case?
2. What are the reasons that women might not attend for cervical screening?
3. What is the role of health care professionals in encouraging women to have cervical screening?
4. What would have been a better approach?
5. What are the key objectives to take away from this case study?

Review the Checklist for Respectful Care in Women's Health and discuss how to put the actions into practice together.

[End of case study].