45.9% respectively. Breast lump, recent onset nipple discharge, pain on breast and skin changes of breast were stated as clinical features by 95.9%, 84.2%, 71.2% and 79.3% participants, respectively. Knowledge on methods of treatment such as surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy were 96.8%, 88.3% and 82% respectively.

Conclusions: The majority of the study population was aware that having a positive family history for breast cancer is a risk factor and its development is associated with female hormones. The majority were aware of the practice of self-breast examination although only 1/3 of were practicing it.

PP12

Are farmers aware of Leptospirosis? A survey among farming community in Colombo District

Mathanamohan J[1], Kaleel FF[1], Hyderaly H[1], Imthiyaz I[1], Unais R[1], Gamage GGTN[1], Weerasekara MM[1], Fernando SSN[1], Liyanage T[2], Gunasekara TDCP[1]

[1]Department of Microbiology, [2]Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Objective: This study was conducted to assess the knowledge attitude and practices (KAP) regarding leptospirosis among a farming community in Colombo District.

Methods: The study was a descriptive, cross sectional study conducted among farming communities in Colombo District. Data were collected using a pre-tested interviewer-administered questionnaire to assess the KAP of 120 randomly selected farmers in Homagama, Padukka, Boralesgamuwa and Kotte MOH areas. The data collected was analyzed using the SPSS software version 16.0. Significance was tested at $p \leq 0.05$ using Chi-squared test and Fisher's-Exact test.

Results: The findings revealed that the majority of farmers (n=89, 74%) had satisfactory knowledge on transmission, symptoms and preventive measures regarding leptospirosis. Of the 120 farmers who were interviewed, 96.7% (n=116) were aware of leptospirosis and 78.5% (n=94), 85.8% (n=103) and 80% (n=96) of respondents correctly identified the modes of disease transmission, symptoms and preventive measures respectively. Although 92.5% (n=111) of farmers demonstrated satisfactory attitudes, only 53.3% (n=64) farmers claimed to have used good practices towards leptospirosis. There was no significant association between the KAP on leptospirosis and socio-demographic characteristics of study population. A statistical significance was observed in respondents who were engaged in other employment while farming ($p<0.05$).

Conclusions: Although the knowledge, attitudes and practices of the farmers were satisfactory, this study identified gaps in knowledge and poor attitudes. This may affect the level and the frequency of preventive practices. Awareness must be initiated at an individual house-hold level and large-scale, to improve effective strategies for behavioral changes for successful prevention and control of leptospirosis.

PP13

Preliminary study on knowledge, attitudes and practices on rabies in a rural community in Sri Lanka

Gunathilaka MGRSS[1], Dissanayake DMBP[1], Jayasundara JMDD[1], Illapperuma SC[1], Amarasingha PMAT[1], Bandara HMIP[1], Tharaka DDI[1], Gunathilaka MRKM[1], Wijesooriya WPIL[2]

[1]Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, [2]Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Objectives: This study was done to assess the, knowledge attitudes and practices of people regarding rabies, in a Grama Niladhari area of Anuradhapura District.