Barriers to cervical screening in women who have experienced sexual abuse: an exploratory study

Web-only data (Table S1) – Survey open questions coded framework themes with frequency and percentages

Code	Framework theme	Frequency (*n*)	Percentage (%)
1	**Self-worth**	*28	*22.6
1.1	Shame	6	4.8
1.2	Not normal	1	0.8
1.3	Scarred	3	2.4
1.4	Dirty	3	2.4
1.5	Worthlessness	3	2.4
1.6	Embarrassment/self-conscious	18	14.5
1.7	Guilt/punishment	3	2.4
2	**Power disparity**	36	29.0
2.1	Control	15	12.1
2.2	Power	6	4.8
2.3	Vulnerability	17	13.7
2.4	Timing	4	3.2
2.5	Hounded	4	3.2
2.6	Things just happen to you	1	0.8
2.7	Things done to you	8	6.55
2.8	Choice	1	0.8
3	**Trust, safety and disclosure**	26	21.0
3.1	Safety	2	1.6
3.2	Disclosure	8	6.55
3.3	Privacy	6	4.8

Code	Framework theme	Frequency (*n*)	Percentage (%)
3.4	Trust	9	7.3
3.5	Isolation	4	3.2
3.6	Gender	5	4.0
4	**Physical pain**	**26**	**21.0**
4.1	Pain	22	17.7
4.2	Tense	7	5.7
5	**Sexual victimisation**	**47**	**37.9**
5.1	General sexual victimisation	1	0.8
5.2	Being touched	11	8.9
5.3	Being looked at / exposed	9	7.3
5.4	Feels like abuse	18	14.5
5.5	Raped	3	2.4
5.6	Violated	2	1.6
5.7	Invasive	12	9.7
5.8	Intrusive/intimate	7	5.6
5.9	Inappropriate person down there	10	8.1
6	**Mechanics of the examination**	**11**	**8.9**
6.1	Position	5	4.0
6.2	Penetration	6	4.8
6.3	Environment	1	0.8
6.4	Instruments / equipment	1	0.8
7	**Fear and anxiety**	**41**	**33.1**
7.1	Of result	6	4.8
7.2	Of test	11	8.9
7.3	Of penetration	2	1.6

Code	Framework theme	Frequency (*n*)	Percentage (%)
7.4	Of effect of test	9	7.3
7.5	Of cancer	2	1.6
7.6	Of consequences of not doing	4	3.2
7.7	General fear and anxiety	11	8.9
8	**Communication**	**21**	**16.9**
8.1	Lack of communication skills of smear taker - sensitivity, understanding, listening, inappropriate responses	17	13.7
8.2	Lack of knowledge of abuse impact	6	4.8
8.3	Poor quality written information and paucity of abuse info	3	2.4
9	**Impact on coping strategies**	**49**	**39.5**
9.1	Triggers responses or memories	37	29.8
9.2	Dissociation	5	4.0
9.3	Depression	1	0.8
9.4	Self-harm	2	1.6
9.5	Avoidance	7	5.7
9.6	Shaky and tearful	8	6.5
9.7	Emotional pain	3	2.4
10	**Intention to attend screening**	**39**	**31.5**
10.1	Never	6	4.8
10.2	Used to go but never again or putting off going	26	21.0
10.3	Hard to go when young	3	2.4
10.4	Harder as you get older	1	0.8
10.5	Fatalist - will take a chance and hope for the best	2	1.6
10.6	Risk/fear balance unacceptable	4	3.2
10.7	Perceived low risk	3	2.4

Code	Framework theme	Frequency (*n*)	Percentage (%)
11	**Disclosure**	**23**	**18.6**
11.1	Flagged/recorded in notes	1	0.8
11.2	Routine checking	4	3.2
11.3	Practitioner continuity	8	6.5
11.4	To be asked directly	5	4.0
11.5	General awareness	5	4.0
11.6	Means of telling other than verbal	5	4.0
11.7	Time to disclose	2	1.6
12	**Safety, trust, sharing control - enabling**	**57**	**46.07**
12.1	Self-insertion of speculum or self-test	14	11.3
12.2	Choice of chaperone/staff	12	9.7
12.3	Choice of gender	21	16.9
12.4	Can walk away and return without feeling naughty or judged	8	6.5
12.5	Consent and assurance that stop means stop	9	7.3
12.6	Choose to go or not	8	6.5
12.7	Respect	6	4.8
12.8	Trust	3	2.4
12.9	General control/choice	8	6.5
13	**Communication**	**66**	**53.2**
13.1	Special knowledge of abuse and awareness of coping mechanisms	23	18.6
13.2	Acknowledgement of abuse and difficulty	8	6.5
13.3	Availability of counselling and support lines	23	18.6
13.4	Sensitivity, support and understanding	31	25.0
13.5	Knowledge of special techniques	6	4.8

Code	Framework theme	Frequency (*n*)	Percentage (%)
13.6	Availability of information	16	12.9
13.7	Listen	1	0.8
13.8	Disclosed information will not be shared	1	0.8
14	**Position, procedure, environment**	**24**	**19.4**
14.1	Less clinical	10	8.1
14.2	Different position	4	3.2
14.3	Different instruments or test	8	6.5
14.4	Sedation/being numbed	4	3.2
15	**Time and space**	**38**	**30.7**
15.1	Dedicated clinic for abuse survivors	5	4.0
15.2	Set time - no waiting	3	2.4
15.3	More time or more than one appointment	30	24.2
15.4	Privacy	2	1.6
15.5	Private area before or after to regroup	4	3.2

*Higher order theme coding frequency = 1 even if there was more than one coding in a number of the sub-themes.