

00323 **Knowledge, Attitudes and Perception of Familial Adenomatous Polyposis Individuals Towards Genetic Testing: A Descriptive Qualitative Study**

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Aims: To explore the knowledge, attitudes and perception of familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) individuals towards genetic testing.

Methodology: A descriptive qualitative research design was utilised, using semi-structured interviews for a purposive sample of 10 FAP participants. Sample size was determined by data saturation. The audiotaped interviews were transcribed verbatim and content analysis was conducted to analyse the data.

Result: Five major themes emerged from the findings: (1) experiences of FAP, (2) knowledge of FAP and genetic testing, (3) acceptance of genetic testing, (4) hindrance to genetic testing, and (5) healthcare professionals' role in genetic testing. Most participants had a positive attitude towards adenomatous polyposis coli (APC) gene testing and preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) and would encourage their child to go for genetic testing prior to colonoscopy. There is a general lack of awareness and knowledge among FAP individuals. The main motivators were wanting to test for at-risk family members and the desire to have a child unaffected by FAP. Barriers include fear of knowing test results, financial and ethical considerations.

Conclusion: APC gene testing can be routinely offered to children from the age of 10 and reproductive genetic testing should be offered to FAP individuals at childbearing age. There is also a need to raise awareness and knowledge among FAP individuals. Further research to explore healthcare professionals' knowledge and attitudes towards genetic testing is recommended.