

Disclosure of traditional and complementary medicine use and its associated factors to medical doctor in primary care clinics in Kuching division, Sarawak, Malaysia: a cross-sectional study

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Patients to disclose Traditional and Complementary Medicine (TCM) use to their doctor is an important area to be explored. This study aimed to determine the disclosure of TCM use and its associated factors to medical doctor among primary care clinic attendees in Kuching Division, Sarawak. **Methods:** It was a cross-sectional study using questionnaire, interviewer administered questionnaire on the decision to disclose of traditional and complementary medicine use and factors affecting it among all eligible participant aged 18 years and above attending government primary health clinics via multistage sampling. All information about socio-demographic, economic, health profile, healthcare utilisation, attitude towards traditional and complementary medicine use, level of healthcare satisfaction and patient-doctor relationship were assessed. **Results:** A total of 1130 patients were screened with 80.2% reported using TCM. Participant aged from 19 to 77 years old and the mean age was 47.9 (9.1) years old. The rate of disclosure of TCM use to medical doctor was 9.6%. Logistic regression analysis revealed that being female (AOR=3.219, 95%CI: 1.385, 7.481), perceived benefits that TCM can prevent complication of illness (AOR=3.999, 95%CI: 1.850, 8.644), and TCM is more gentle and safer (AOR=4.537, 95%CI: 2.332, 8.828), perceived barriers that do not have enough knowledge about TCM (AOR=0.530, 95%CI: 0.309, 0.910), patient dissatisfaction towards healthcare providers being too business-like and impersonal (AOR=0.365, 95%CI: 0.199, 0.669), and pay for more of health care than can afford (AOR=0.413, 95%CI: 0.250, 0.680), and accessibility of doctors (AOR=3.971, 95%CI: 2.245, 7.023) to be the predictors of disclosure of TCM use. **Conclusion:** An open communication between patients and doctor is important to ensure safe implementation and integration of both TCM and medical treatment.

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Effectiveness of public health education by lecture on improving the knowledge, attitude and practices on leptospirosis and its management among adolescents in a public school in Manila

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ABSTRACT

Leptospirosis is endemic worldwide. Based on the Philippine Pediatric Society Disease Registry, there were 800 cases of leptospirosis from 2006 to 2016. Case fatality rate is about 8-9%, with increased prevalence among adults and adolescents. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of public health education by lecture on improving the knowledge, attitude and practices about leptospirosis among adolescents in grade 7-10 in a public school in Manila. This is a prospective cross-sectional analytical study design. A pre-tested, self-administered questionnaire was administered among 357 students in a public school. The author did informative lecture and post-test was done after the lecture. Paired t-test was used. A total of 357 students were included in this study, with 88.37% response rate. Total mean pre-test knowledge score was 88.64% for the topic of leptospirosis. For the attitude associated with leptospirosis, total mean pre-test score was 80.97%. For the practices related to leptospirosis, respondents had a total mean pre-test score of 72.12%. Pre-test scores were compared to the post-test scores. After the lecture was conducted, there was a significant increase on their knowledge on leptospirosis ($p < 0.0001$). There was also an improvement on post-test scores on attitude, as well as the practices regarding leptospirosis ($p < 0.0001$). The results showed that there is a significant improvement in knowledge, attitude and practices for leptospirosis after an informative lecture. One of the important findings in this study, with respect to public health impact, is increasing the awareness regarding leptospirosis may help in the prevention of the disease in the adolescent population.