

Risk Behaviors Associated with Hepatitis C Infection Among Adult Patients in Kedah State, Malaysia

Mohd Azri Mohd Suan, Salmiah Md Said, Lim Poh Ying, Ahmad Zaid Fattah Azman, Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Selangor, Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar, Kedah, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Hepatitis C is a global public health concern both in developed and developing countries. However, evidences regarding risk factors for hepatitis C is not well explored before in Malaysia. The aim of the study was to assess risk factors associated with hepatitis C among adult patients in Kedah state, Malaysia. **METHODS:** A matched, hospital based, case-control study was conducted at a tertiary hospital in Kedah state. Cases were adults (aged ≥ 18 years) diagnosed with hepatitis C between 2015-2018 while controls were age-, gender-, and ethnic-matched and tested negative for hepatitis C. Standard questionnaires on demographic and previous exposure to listed risk factors were filled up by all study participants. Association between hepatitis C, demographic and risk factors were assessed using logistic regression analysis. **RESULTS:** Total of 257 pairs case-control patients enrolled. Multivariate analysis indicate that blood or blood products transfusion (adjusted odd ratio [aOR] 6.81, 95% confidence intervals [CI]; 3.64, 13.40), injection drug use (aOR 6.29, 95% CI; 3.53, 11.68), body piercing (aOR 1.68, 95% CI; 1.03, 2.75), tattoo (aOR 3.77, 95% CI; 1.39, 12.11), been jailed (aOR 4.68, 95% CI; 1.67, 16.76), sexual promiscuity (aOR 1.93, 95% CI; 1.10, 3.44) and secondary education (aOR 1.90, 95% CI; 1.06, 3.53) were independently associated with hepatitis C. **CONCLUSION:** Parenteral routes were the main mode of transmission for hepatitis C identified beside sexual promiscuity. Healthcare givers may use this finding as a screening tool for early detection and timely interventions of hepatitis C in these high-risk groups in Malaysia.

KEYWORDS: hepatitis C, risk factor, case-control, Malaysia

Risk Factor for Mental Health Disorders Among Preschool Care Providers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

MIN FUI, WONG, MD, MASLINOR BINTI ISMAIL, MPH(Mal) MPH(Family Health)

Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Depression and anxiety are common mental disorders in the general population and among workers. Caregiver-child interaction is crucial for children's development outcome for the first 3 years of life. Caregiver who has negative mood, has negative impact on child's behaviour outcome. **Objective:** This study aimed to determine the prevalence of mental disorders and its associated risks factors in particular job strain and socio-demographic risk factors among the preschool care providers in Kuala Lumpur. **METHODS:** A cross-sectional study with cluster random sampling was conducted in Kuala Lumpur, involving registered preschools (4 years old and below) under Social and Welfare Department, Kuala Lumpur. The inclusion criteria are registered preschool's care providers, age 18 years above. Validated tools: CES-D and PHQ-9 were used to detect depression, GAD-7 for Anxiety and JCQ for Job Strain assessment. **RESULTS:** Total participants completed the study n=159. The preliminary results of the study show that the prevalence of depression measured by CES-D and PHQ-9 is 34.1% and 14.0% respectively. While the prevalence of anxiety measured by GAD-7 is 11.3%. Care providers with high Job demand have been found to be significantly associated with depression (CES-D aOR:3.26; 95%CI:1.56, 6.82, p=0.002, PHQ-9 aOR 2.88; 95%CI: 1.05, 7.93, p=0.04) and anxiety (GAD-7 aOR:5.02 95%CI: 1.40, 17.99, p=0.01), after adjusted for age, marital status, income and education level. **CONCLUSION:** This study has found a high prevalence rate of depression and anxiety among preschool care providers in Kuala Lumpur. High Job demand is a risk factor for mental disorders among preschool care providers in Kuala Lumpur.

KEYWORDS: Common mental disorders, depression, anxiety, associated factors and child care providers