

Seroprevalence of Hepatitis B and Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Domestic Waste Collectors in Penang Island, Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Occupational exposure increases one's risk to acquire infectious diseases such as Hepatitis B. This study aimed to determine the seroprevalence of Hepatitis B and knowledge, attitude and practice of domestic waste collectors towards the prevention of Hepatitis B. **METHODS:** An analytical cross-sectional study was conducted in Penang Island from November 2017 to Mei 2018. Domestic waste collectors who have been working for at least six months and able to understand either Malay or English language were included in the study. Upon obtaining informed consent, participants' blood was withdrawn and tested for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and Hepatitis B surface antibody (HBsAb) using Elisa method. A result of reactive HBsAg indicates that the person is infected with Hepatitis B infection. The waste collectors were then interviewed on the knowledge, attitude and practices regarding the prevention of Hepatitis B using a questionnaire. **RESULTS:** A total of 184 waste collectors participated in the study. Majority of the participants were married (76.6), of Bangladesh nationality (75.0%) and had attained primary education (42.4%). The prevalence of Hepatitis B in this study was 1.6% (n=3). Majority of the participants had poor knowledge (77.0%) on Hepatitis B. However, half of them had good attitude (53.6%) and majority had good practice (73.9%). Significant correlation was observed between attitude and practice scores ($r=0.203$, $p=0.006$). **DISCUSSION:** The prevalence of Hepatitis B among municipal waste collectors was low in this study. Most had poor knowledge on prevention of Hepatitis B. Health promotion is essential to reduce the risk of contracting this disease.

KEYWORDS: Prevalence, KAP, Hepatitis B, domestic waste collectors, Malaysia

Sirenomelia: A Mermaid Syndrome in Military Primary Health Care: A Case Report

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Sirenomelia is a rare complex congenital anomaly characterised by partial or complete fusion of lower limbs. It is commonly associated with the malformation of urogenital and gastrointestinal abnormalities. The incidence of this anomaly is very rare that the ratio is 0.8 - 1 / 100,000 births. Most of the cases were reported to be associated with tobacco usage, drug abuse, maternal diabetes, heavy metal exposure, and the usage of retinoids. Approximately 300 cases being reported in the literature worldwide with few reports of surviving infants. Few cases were reported in Malaysia but only through the newspaper. This case was found after a severe oligohydramnions with 1 femur findings was made using ultrasound during routine antenatal check up at 712 Pusat Perubatan Sungai Besi. Being the secondhand exposure to cigarette and vape might be associated to the cause of anomaly in this case. This pregnancy was able to survive until term, however died after 1 hour of delivery due to congenital complications.

KEYWORDS: sirenomelia, mermaid syndrome, rare disease