

Evaluation of The Management of Gonorrhoeal Infection in Pahang-To Ascertain the Management for HIV Anticipation

Nik Hazarif Nik Mahmood, MD, Shahdattul Dewi Nur Khairitza Taib, DrPH, Mohamed Sopian Mohamed, MPH, Zainuddin Idris, Muaz Mustaffa, Nazri Omar

Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pahang

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Gonorrhoeal disease is an infection acquired through risky sexual practices. Even though it is treatable, it must be well managed as a primary HIV prevention strategy. The aim of this study is to evaluate the management of gonorrhoea infection in Pahang to ascertain the management for HIV anticipation. **METHODS:** We conducted a cross sectional study consists of 109 gonorrhoeal confirmed cases in Pahang in the year 2018. Data was collected by face-to-face interview using structured investigation form. **RESULTS:** Majority of cases were male (91%) with mean age 25.2±6.719. The main mode of transmission was heterosexual (97%) while the remaining 3% were homosexual. 75.2% of cases had history of sexual intimacy with illegal sex partner while 19.3% had intimacy with commercial sex workers. The remaining 5.5% had sexual intimacy with legal partners. All cases were educated with HIV/STI knowledge and screened for HIV. Two cases were found to be HIV positive. Total number of 127 sexual contacts identified but only 12 were screened for gonorrhoeal and HIV. **CONCLUSIONS:** Management of gonorrhoeal patients as a primary HIV prevention strategy needs to be strengthened. Proper counseling and education on risk of HIV to all gonorrhoeal patients are mandatory. Repeat HIV testing after window period should be done aggressively including defaulter tracing. Adequate contact identification and investigation should be a priority as other infectious diseases despite of the difficulty.

KEYWORDS: prevention strategy, sex partner, risk of HIV, window period.

Exclusive Breastfeeding and Gross Motor Development

Catherine T. Arumugam, MPH, Mas A. Said, PhD

Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Breastfeeding is recognized as an unmatched means of feeding due to the protective and personalised properties of breast milk. However, global and national breastfeeding pattern indicate substantial room for improvement. This study sought to investigate the impact of exclusive breastfeeding on neurodevelopmental attainment level of toddlers. **METHODS:** This cross-sectional study recruited 360 Malaysian mothers with children aged six to 36 months old. Information on sociodemographic distribution, child and obstetric characteristics, home stimulation and breastfeeding practices in terms of duration and exclusivity were obtained through interviewer-assisted questionnaire administration. The “Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3”, a global child developmental screening tool was used to assess child gross motor attainment level. Multiple logistic regression methods were used for data analysis. **RESULTS:** Mothers who did not breastfeed at all make up 5.4% of total respondents. The prevalence of six months exclusive breastfeeding was 36.4%. 31.7% children aged above two years old received continued breastfeeding for at least 24 months of life. Duration of breastfeeding is positively associated with gross motor scoring, $p=0.004$. Odds of children exclusively breastfed for six months to acquire gross motor milestones advancement is 2.55 times higher compared to children who are not exclusively breastfed for the same duration, OR 2.55 (95%CI: 1.02, 6.40), $p=0.045$. **DISCUSSION:** The positive impact of exclusive breastfeeding towards gross motor development of toddlers revealed in this study is hoped to provide an insight in overcoming issues of early cessation of exclusive breastfeeding through community empowerment and policy development.

KEYWORDS: breast milk, breastfeeding, child development, gross motor