Comparing the COVID-19 Mortality Occurring in Hospitals and those Brought in Dead within Malaysia

Arvinder-Singh HS, MSc[1,2]

[1]Community Health Department, Hospital Canselor Tuanku Muhriz UKM, [2]Institute of Clinical Research (ICR) NIH Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Measuring the success of the control of COVID-19 in any country includes a review of the mortality specially to compare the deaths of those dying in hospitals and those Brought-In-Dead (BID). The objective of this study was to compare the deaths comparing COVID-19 deaths that occurred within the hospitals and BIDs in Malaysia. **Methods:** This cross-sectional study utilised secondary data from the 17/3/20 - 28/2/21. Data such as the basic demography, comorbidities were analysed descriptively and a binary-logistic regression analysis to compare the independent variables against the outcome of being BID compared to dying in hospital was done. **Results:** From the database, 120 cases were included as BID and 120 patients from the 1006 who passed away in hospital were randomly selected as comparators. Data collected was entered into SPSS v21.0 for analysis. The mean age for BIDs were 59.59 (SD: 18.74), with more males (70.8%), 61.7% of them were Malaysians, 46.7% from Sabah and 64.2% of them having at least one co-morbidity. When compared to those who died in the hospital- age (p=0.03), nationality (p<0.001) and states where the death occurred (p=0.04) had a statistically significant difference when comparing the two groups. The median time of admission to death in the hospital group was 5 (IQR: 12.25). **Conclusion:** A multivariate binary logistic regression analysis conducted including all demographic data yielded a final conclusion that the only factor that distinguished the BID from those dying in the hospital was being a foreigner (AOR: 4.32 [95%CI: 2.02-9.24], p<0.001). Foreigners in Malaysia were likely to die from COVID-19 outside of the hospital compared to Malaysians.

HIV Among Blood Donors in Perak, Malaysia: A Review From 2015-2019

Noor Aqilah Binti Ashamuddin, MBBS[1], Sabariah Binti Mohd Noor, MTransfusion[1], Afifa Binti Dzulkafli, MD[1], Seetha A/P Daywipragas, B. Microbiology[1], Thevasree A/P Balakrishnan, B. Microbiology[1], Azlina Binti Osman, Dip Biomedics[1], Ang Ju Ying, B. Pharm[2]

[1]Transfusion Medicine Department, Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Ipoh, [2]Clinical Research Centre, Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Ipoh

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Blood donors screened for positive HIV are usually called for counselling and further management in the Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun (HRPB), Perak. Nucleic acid testing (NAT) and serological testings are used as screening and detection of HIV among blood donors. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was undertaken from Jan 2015 to December 2019 by reviewing the existing blood donor's database of HRPB, that handle more than 314000 blood bags during the study period. **Results:** A total of 97 individuals tested positive with HIV, all of them donated whole blood and the median age is 30 years old. This group of donors comprised different ethnicity (Malays 63.9%, Chinese 15.5%, Indians 18.6% and other ethnicity 2.1%) reflecting multiracial population of Malaysia. In all 99% of HIV blood donors were males and more than half of them (63.9%) were single and (57.7%) were new donors. Three donors didn't turn up for post donation counselling, half of them (55.3%) denied practicing any high-risk behaviours, while 44.7% of them revealed their past involvement in one or two high risk behaviours. The most commonly reported high risk behaviour was practicing lifestyle of casual sex or multiple sexual partners (19.1%), followed by man having sex with man (MSM) (15.1%) and "make or received payment in exchanged for sex" (11.7%). **Conclusion:** It is pivotal to maintain equilibrium between recruiting blood donors and at the same time educate those with high-risk behaviours to defer themselves prior donating. HIV infection among blood donors remain a thread to Blood Transfusion Services in Malaysia.