

Treatment Outcomes and its Associated Factor Among Delayed Sputum Smear Conversion Pulmonary Tuberculosis (PTB) Patients at Primary Care Clinics in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia: A Retrospective Cohort Study

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Delayed sputum smear conversion (DSSC) is a significant problem faced by primary healthcare in Sabah resulting in poor treatment outcomes. This study aimed to determine the prevalence of DSSC among pulmonary tuberculosis smear-positive patients at primary care clinics in Kota Kinabalu and their treatment outcomes from extended intensive phase treatment in terms of composite adverse treatment outcome and time to sputum smear conversion. **Methods:** This was a retrospective cohort study conducted using data from Malaysian TB registry and medical records from five primary care clinics in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia from January 2014 until December 2018. **Results:** In all 163 patients with DSSC were selected into cohort groups with 90 patients received extended intensive phase treatment (3EHRZ) and 73 patients received non-extended intensive phase treatment (2EHRZ). Prevalence of DSSC among new pulmonary tuberculosis smear positive patients was 6.45%. Out of overall 163 patients, 28.8% had composite adverse treatment outcomes (0.6% died, 25.2% treatment failure, 3.7% relapse and 4.9% acquired resistance). The mean time to sputum smear conversion was 145 days (SD 71.8). There were no significant differences in composite adverse treatment outcomes (OR = 1.49, CI: 0.74, 2.98, $p = 0.266$) and time to sputum smear conversion (mean difference = 17.91, CI: -5.83, 41.65, $p = 0.318$) between both cohort groups. **Conclusion:** Extension of intensive phase treatment in patients with DSSC did not prevent adverse treatment outcomes including TB death, treatment failure, relapse and acquired resistance or reduced time to sputum smear conversion.

Knowledge about cervical cancer and awareness of Pap smear screening among female nurses in Hospital Pakar Sultanah Fatimah

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Nurses play an important role in promoting public health awareness to inform, encourage and motivate the public in considering health screening such as Pap smear. **Objective:** The aim of this study to assess the levels knowledge about cervical cancer and awareness of Pap smear screening among nurses in Hospital Pakar Sultanah Fatimah (HPSF). **Methods:** A descriptive, cross-sectional design was carried out with a self-administered questionnaire using stratified random method involved the 260 registered nurses in HPSF. SPSS version 22 was used to describe the study outcome. **Results:** In this study showed that overall, the nurses in HPSF, had a level good knowledge about cervical cancer was (87.1%) and the moderate awareness of Pap smear was (53.9%). The association between experiences years of services and awareness among participants were found significant with P value was 0.014. This study will help the nursing management and education training curricula, and they need review to incorporate practical skills on cervical cancer screening. **Conclusion:** Nurses can be empowered with knowledge of cervical cancer and play an important role in awareness, encourage and motivate among nurses in health screening of Pap smear. The training of education to effective personnel involvement in the implement of cervical screening program are needed.