

Pregnant mothers with HIV — Do medical students have the right knowledge and attitude?

Ahmed Thala'at Solahudin¹, 'Ainol Soeraya Mohd Tuah¹, Muhammad Ridhuan Nordin¹, Muhammad Bakhtiar Razali¹, Noryn Natasha Ahmad Rasdan¹, Shafiqah Filzah Ahmad Basri¹, Ariza Mohamed²

¹Medical students, Royal College of Medicine Perak, Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, Malaysia, ²Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Royal College of Medicine Perak, Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, Malaysia.

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Vertical transmission of HIV from a pregnant mother to the child is still a major challenge in the world, especially in developing countries. Malaysia has reached zero vertical transmission since 2018, however, much more knowledge and proper attitude need to be conveyed and practiced by the public. This study is to evaluate the knowledge and attitude of UniKL RCMP medical students on HIV infected pregnant mothers. **Objective:** To determine the knowledge and attitude of medical students towards HIV infected pregnant mothers. **Materials and methods:** This is a cross-sectional study, which was conducted through a structured online questionnaire, in July 2022. The study population included medical students of UniKL RCMP from year 1 to 5. Using OpenEpi, the sample size was calculated to be 234 with 95% confidence level. The sampling method was done using systematic random sampling. A set of questionnaires was given to the students to be answered and all the recorded responses were computed as the variables of this study. Analysis was done in SPSS 16 using appropriate statistical tests, $p < 0.05$ was considered significant. **Results and conclusion:** Out of the 234 samples collected, 72 (32%) of them had good knowledge and 97 (41.5%) of them had a good attitude towards HIV infected pregnant mothers. Knowledge has significant correlation with attitude with $p < 0.022$. A percentage of 58.5% preclinical students had a good attitude, which showed a higher percentage than the clinical students (30.4%) did. Overall, knowledge and attitude of medical students in UniKL RCMP towards HIV infected pregnant mothers are still low. Serious attention needs to be given to the education of students and the public on HIV infected mothers.

Keywords: knowledge, attitude, HIV, pregnancy, medical students