

# Determinants of client-initiated viral testing among human immunodeficiency virus positive clients with risky sexual behaviour in Gua Musang district, Malaysia

Nur Raihan Ismail<sup>1</sup>, Wan Muhamad Norazwan Wan Abu Bakar<sup>1</sup>, Noor Amalina Jamal<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Gua Musang District Health Office, Kelantan, Malaysia, <sup>2</sup>Star Health Clinic, Gua Musang, Kelantan, Malaysia

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** In Malaysia, new HIV infection has declined by more than 50%, from 28 cases per 100,000 population in 2002 to 9.3 cases per 100,000 population in 2020. Client-initiated HIV testing and counselling (CITC), also known as voluntary counselling and testing, is one of the key strategies in the HIV/AIDS prevention and control. Clients with risky sexual behaviour should actively seek HIV testing for early diagnosis and prompt targeted HIV care. This study aims to explore the determinants of CITC among HIV positive clients with risky sexual behaviour in Gua Musang District. **Materials and Methods:** A district-wide record review study using National AIDS Registry (NAR) Investigation Form (NAR/ investigation/ 2008) from the district health office was conducted. CITC involves clients actively seeking HIV testing at a facility that offers this service while provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling (PITC) is recommended by health care providers to clients attending health care facilities as a standard component of medical care. A logistic regression model (LR) was performed to assess determinants influencing the CITC model. **Results:** A sample of 114 HIV positive clients registered in Gua Musang was included, 31.6% of the clients tested positive for HIV through CITC. In the final LR model, determinants for CITC were younger age groups (Adj. OR 2.98; 95% CI: 1.14, 7.77, p=0.026), unmarried (Adj. OR 3.83; 95% CI: 1.39, 10.55, p=0.009) and bisexual and homosexual identity (Adj. OR 3.37; 95% CI: 1.17, 9.77, p=0.025). **Conclusion:** Recognition of these determinants of CITC is crucial to improve the testing uptake in order to facilitate early diagnosis and prompt treatment. Key determinants of CITC include; younger age, unmarried and bisexual and homosexual identity. Effective educational programs and awareness raising campaigns should be consistently in place to increase participation in HIV testing and counselling especially among the key population groups.