

# An isolated case of Cholera in Klang district - A carrier or a patient?

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Klang district health office was notified of a case of cholera on the 3rd of November 2016. Data from MOH showed yearly occurrence of cholera epidemics from 1991 to 2016. In general, cholera in Malaysia shows a cyclical peak (in 2001, 2005, 2011 and 2015) after few years of declining trend (Figure 1). In Selangor, the highest number of cases was in 2009 with a total of 32 cases which was contributed by Klang district (Figure 2). There have been no indigenous cases of cholera reported in Klang district from 2009 until this case occurred. **Case Report:** A 27 year old lady was reported to be having multiple episodes of diarrhoea, vomiting and abdominal pain for 5 days with a positive stool culture of *V.cholerae*. An investigation was conducted to understand the epidemiological characteristic, identify the source of the outbreak and effective control measures were instituted. Active case detection, passive case detection and environmental control activities were conducted immediately. There was no other case or carrier reported during this outbreak. All contacts were screened and there were no significant findings. Treatment was given to the patient and 3 subsequent stool clearance were negative for *V.cholerae*. All environmental, food and clinical investigations turned out to be negative. **Discussion:** Interestingly, cholera which is known for its rapid spread of its infectivity was self limiting in this case. Besides that, the symptoms and signs exhibited by the patient was not classical as seen in Cholera outbreaks. A duodenal lavage sample would be needed to ascertain *V.cholerae* carrier status of the patient. **Conclusion:** Hence, it could be concluded that cholera could present as an isolated case, self limiting and can manifest as a simple acute gastroenteritis symptoms. Therefore, cholera should be considered as a differential diagnosis in any case of food and waterborne diseases.

Med J Malaysia Vol 72 Supplement 1 August 2017:A95

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# Anaemia in pregnancy and the associated factors: findings from NHMS 2016

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Anaemia is one of major problems among women in reproductive age worldwide. It impairs health and wellbeing in women and increases the risk of maternal and neonatal adverse outcome. **Objective:** This study aimed to determine the prevalence of anaemia in pregnancy with the sociodemographic factors. **Methodology:** This study was conducted using data from the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS 2016). Structured questionnaires with face-to-face interview using mobile device was the method used for data collection. The questionnaires included four different modules; household module, maternal health module, nursing module and child health module. Anaemia topic was included in the maternal health module together with other common antenatal problems. All respondents were asked to show their last antenatal card for interviewer's reference. Descriptive analysis and multivariate logistic regression analysis were performed for this study. **Results:** A total of 7831 mothers included in this study. More than half of them (52.2%) were aged more than 20 to 30, followed by 40.8% aged more than 30 to 40. The prevalence of anaemia in pregnancy was 29.3% (95%CI:27.5-31.1). The multivariate logistic regression revealed that teenage mothers (aOR:1.54;95 %CI:1.21-1.98) and grand multigravida (AOR:1.72;95%CI:1.42-2.10) were significantly associated with anaemia in pregnancy. In term of ethnicity, Other Bumiputeras were 2.32 times more likely to have anaemia in pregnancy, followed by Indians (2.01). **Discussion:** The prevalence of anaemia in pregnancy was slightly lower than a cross-sectional survey conducted by Clinical Research Centre, Kuala Lumpur Hospital in 2005(35%). However, a careful attention should be given to the higher risk groups by encouraging them to get an early antenatal care and to comply with the treatment offered.