

Towards elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Malaysia: Retrospective analysis of a laboratory data

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Eliminating transmission of HIV from mother to child has been observed as one of the greatest public health achievements for a country. In 2015, Cuba became the first country to receive a validation from World Health Organization for successfully eliminating the transmission of HIV and syphilis from mother to child. Ministry of Health Malaysia through its National AIDS Reference Laboratory (NARL), Institute for Medical Research has carried out a surveillance programme on paediatric HIV-1 infection. Therefore, this report aimed to analyse the 10 years data on HIV-1 infection amongst the infants born to HIV-1 positive mothers in Malaysia. **Methods:** Since 2007 to 2016, a total of 8142 samples of babies born to HIV-1 positive mothers was received and tested for HIV-1 confirmation test from hospitals in Malaysia. Currently, all samples were subjected to qualitative detection of HIV RNA by using artus® HIV RG RT-PCR Kit (Germany). **Result:** A total of 250 infants were diagnosed with HIV-1 infection within the 10 years period. Number of infants detected to suffer from HIV-1 was 34, 44, 28, 39, 35 and 12 for the year 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. Meanwhile HIV-1 infection was detected in 14, 13, 23 and 8 infants for the years 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively. Analysis showed that the majority of infants (11.5%) were diagnosed with HIV infection at the age of 2 weeks. **Discussion and Conclusion:** Analysis of the results showed the annual transmission rate of mother to child transmission of HIV-1 in Malaysia was less than 7% for the past 10 years. Calculated rate of annual transmission obtained was high because it was primarily based on our laboratory data. Integration of data obtained from HIV and AIDS Sector, MOH is crucial in determining an accurate annual transmission rate of HIV-1 for the country.

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Traditional and complementary medicine usage among dengue fever patients admitted in hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kelantan

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The recent epidemic of dengue fever was alarming and increased challenges to public health officials and healthcare costs. The treatment of dengue fever remains supportive as there is no antiviral agent or vaccine available to treat dengue fever. Traditional and complementary medicine (TandCM) provides an alternative option for dengue fever treatment but there is limited evidence on the use of TandCM and its effectiveness towards dengue fever. This study was aimed at identifying the prevalence and types of TandCM used among dengue fever patients in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Kelantan. **Methods:** A retrospective cohort study was conducted among 96 dengue fever patients who were admitted in Hospital USM from January 2014 until December 2015. Phone interviews were conducted to obtain patient's verbal consent and TandCM usage during hospitalisation. Socio-demographic characteristics were acquired by medical records review. TandCM users were considered as patients who consumed TandCM for at least once daily, for three consecutive days, concurrently received the standard management as per the National Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Dengue. **Results:** Ninety-six dengue fever patients were included in this study. Most of the respondents were men (62.5%), Malay (89.6%) and the mean (SD) age of 35.1 (14.2) years. Majority of them were diagnosing as dengue fever with warning signs (77.1%). The prevalence of TandCM usage was 84.4% (95%CI : 77.0, 91.8). Majority of them consumed more than 1 type of TandCM (82.7%). The most preferred TandCM were crab soup (84.0%), followed by papaya leaves juice (64.2%) and isotonic drink (61.7%). **Conclusion:** TandCM usage was high among dengue fever patients. The potency and efficacy of each TandCM should be investigated further to unlock the full potential of TandCM towards dengue fever.