

Semen Parameters in Male Partners of Infertile Couples in Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Male factor is present in 40-50% of infertility cases. Nevertheless, there is still a lack of statistical data on the semen parameters of men in Malaysia. **Objectives:** This study aims to determine quality of semen of male partners of infertile couples, therefore, to identify the contributions of male factor to infertility in Malaysia. **Methods:** Semen analysis performed during fertility consultation in Kuala Lumpur Fertility & Gynaecology Centre, Malaysia from January 2016 to December 2017 were determined by using WHO standard. **Results:** A total of 1998 semen analyses were done, where the majority of patients (68.1%, n=1360) were from the age group 30-39 years old. The patients were from age groups 20-29, 40-49, 50-59 and 60-69 years old represents 9.7% (n=194), 19.1% (n=382), 2.5% (n=50), and 0.6% (n=12) of the population respectively, with an average age of 36 ± 6.2 years old. The mean volume of seminal fluids per ejaculate was 2.5 mL with minimum and maximum volume of 0.01 and 20 mL respectively. A total of 69.3% (n=1385) specimens had normozoospermia, 22.8% (n=455) had oligozoospermia, 1.6% (n=33) had cryptozoospermia and 6.3% (n=125) had azoospermia. Teratozoospermia were the most common abnormalities observed in 88.3% (n=1765) of the cases, and a total of 45.8 % (n=916) cases showed to have asthenozoospermia. **Conclusions:** A high rate of teratozoospermia (88.3%) followed by asthenozoospermia (45.8%) and reduced sperm concentration (30.7%) in the semen samples indicates the need of improved public health strategy focusing on primary prevention.

The LGBT Community – What Healthcare Professional Students Think

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Attitudes towards the LGBT community have always been contentious in many conservative Asian communities. This has resulted in difficulties not just in socio economic interaction but also in access to health care. Perceptions of healthcare personnel towards individuals with a different sexual orientation will have an impact on access and provision of facilities for such marginalized communities. It is important that healthcare personnel have at the very least a neutral perception towards such individuals so that deliveries of services are not compromised. **Objectives:** This study aimed to look at the impressions of students in these professions towards the LGBT community and factors shaping such impressions. **Methods:** This was a questionnaire-based study comprising 200 students from the faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing and Physiotherapy. **Results:** Of the students sampled 55 (27.5%) had a positive attitude towards the LGBT community. Impressions towards the community was largely affected by the students philosophy towards life and liberty, their sexual and gender identities and the internet. Religion, ethnicity and role modelling were not significant factors in influencing the students' impressions. **Conclusion:** In order to ensure equity in health care delivery there must be a change in our perceptions towards marginalised communities in our midst. As these seem to be greatly influenced by individual philosophy and the internet appropriate educational intervention in the early stages of education may result in more a more positive and accepting attitude.