Role of Obstetric History, Preceeding Child Factors and High Risk Behaviours in Predicting Short Interpregnancy Interval Among Antenatal Mothers in Klang

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Short Interpregnancy interval (IPI) affects maternal and perinatal outcomes such as maternal mortality, premature rupture of membrane, pre-eclampsia, puerperal endometritis, maternal anaemia, low birth weight, preterm birth, small for gestational age, perinatal mortality and neonatal mortality. This study aims to determine the determinants of short interpregnancy interval among antenatal mothers. **METHODS:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among 452 antenatal mothers attending health clinics in Klang in April 2018. The respondents were randomly selected, and data was collected by using a validated and reliable self-administered questionnaire. The dependent variable was short IPI and the independent variables were defined to be parity, menstrual cycle pattern, miscarriage history, illicit drugs abuse, smoking history, the preceding child's sex and survival status, multiple birth and breastfeeding duration. The data was analysed using IBM Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 24. **RESULTS:** Among 452 antenatal mothers studied, 48% had short IPIs with a median of 23 months (IQR±24). Three predictors of short IPI were identified which were parity one (Adjusted Odds Ratio; aOR: 2.465, 95%CI: 1.519, 3.999), irregular menstruation (aOR: 1.844, 95%CI: 1.917, 2.841) and breastfeeding duration of less than 24 months (aOR: 2.846, 95%CI: 1.708, 4.743). Conclusion: The strongest predictor of short IPI was breastfeeding duration of less than 24 months followed by mothers with one parity and irregular menstruation. Higher authorities should integrate a multifaceted approach to create and sustain a breastfeeding culture to mitigate short IPI.

KEYWORDS: Short interpregnancy interval, Predictors, Obstetric history, Preceding child factors, High risk behaviours

Salmonella Contamination of 'Masak Lemak' Chicken - A Food Poisoning Outbreak Among Pre-University Students in Kuala Pilah District, Negeri Sembilan

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: A notification was received on the 25 January 2019 from Klinik Kesihatan Kuala Pilah for food poisoning outbreak among pre-university students whom ate at a program prepared by the cafeteria. Investigation was done to verify the diagnosis, identify the risk factors and source of infection. **METHODS:** Epidemiology investigation was carried out followed by analytical case control study to assess the risk factors and determine the cause of outbreak. Microbiological investigations were done to confirm the presence of suspected pathogen and HACCP commenced to identify risk factors. **RESULTS:** 75 chickens were exposed in room temperature for more than four hours while it is being prepared by only three food handlers. The holding time was more than four hours. There were 46 cases among 660 students with overall attack rate of 6.97 %. Students whom ate the 'masak lemak' chicken had 3.5 times higher odds of getting food poisoning (Odds ratio: 3.62, 95%CI: 1.03, 12.75) as compared to other food. Environmental sample from the chopping board was positive for Salmonella together with 18 stool samples positive for *Salmonella spp*. **DISCUSSION:** This signifies evidence of poor handling and preparation of the chicken leading to *Salmonella* contamination. The cafeteria was closed for 14 days under the enforcement of CDC Act. They were given health education on proper handling of raw product. Practice of good hand hygiene and environmental hygiene were conveyed and monitored to prevent future outbreaks.

KEYWORDS: Food Poisoning, Salmonella, Outbreak, Negeri Sembilan