

# Prevalence, barriers, and predictors towards pap smear screening in Kota Bharu district, Kelantan

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women worldwide since 1990. Screening for cervical cancer is important to detect early abnormal cells from the cervical epithelium. In Malaysia, the uptake of Pap smear screening remains low after more than 50 years of the implementation of Pap smear screening. The objective of this study was to determine the prevalence, barriers, and predictors towards Pap smear screening in Kota Bharu. **Materials and Methods:** This study used a cross-sectional study design. A simple random sampling of 392 women aged 18 to 65 years was recruited from the waiting rooms in Government Health Clinics in Kota Bharu. The consent form and validated self-administered questionnaire was distributed to the patients during their waiting hours. Then the data was collected and analysed. Simple logistic regression and multiple logistic regression were used in multivariate analysis. **Results:** 392 participants participated in this study; majority of them between 35 – 65 years old, Malay, with family monthly income more than 1500 Ringgit Malaysia. Regarding Pap smear Practice, 93.4% know about Pap smear and 77.8% had at least one Pap smear done once in their lifetime. Barrier towards Pap smear screening was being worried about the result identified ( $p=0.004$ ). While age ( $p=0.002$ ), health promotion from medical providers and media ( $p<0.001$ ), self-awareness ( $p<0.001$ ) and the practices of Pap smear screening after confinement ( $p<0.001$ ) has significantly influenced the practice of Pap smear. **Conclusion:** This study showed good practice towards Pap smear test among study participants. The barriers of Pap smear screening were lack of basic knowledge regarding Pap smear procedure. While age, health education and promotion, own self-awareness and practices of Pap smear screening procedures after confinement have significantly influenced the practice of Pap smear test among women.