Applied Clinical Research/Implementation Science

The prevalence of limited health literacy and its associations among adult asthma patients in primary care settings: a preliminary finding of a RESPIRE project

Hani Salim1, Ping Yein Lee2, Sazlina Shariff2, Ai Theng Cheong2, Pinnock Hilary3, Noor Harzana Harrun4, Salbiah Mohammed Isa4, Salmah Nordin4
*1University Putra Malaysia, 2Universiti Putra Malaysia, 3University of Edinburgh, 4Ministry of Health Malaysia*

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| **Applied Clinical Research/Implementation Science Results Abstract****Aim:**More than 90 % of general Malaysian population falls under marginal to limited health literacy level.1 Among patients with asthma, low literacy is associated with poor adherence to self-management activities thus poor clinical outcomes.2The aim of this study is to determine the level of limited health level, its associated factors and to describe the sociodemographic/ clinical profiles of patients with asthma in Malaysia. **Method:**This cross sectional study takes place in the primary health clinics in Malaysia. It involves adult asthma patients aged > 18 years attending the centers for any treatment. Ethical approval from the Ministry of Health, Malaysia was obtained prior to the study. Patients are sampled using a systematic random sampling method. Participation are voluntarily. The target sample size is 540. The questionnaires include two validated tools, asthma control test (ACT) and health Iiteracy scale (HLS-Asia-Q47). The preliminary statistical analysis was done using SPSS 21. For this preliminary analysis, descriptive statistics were used to describe demographic  characteristics of the patients and their asthma control. **Results:**Data collection is currently on-going. To date, we have recruited 488 participants of the proposed 540 patients. Interim analysis shows 18.8% (n = 92) of asthma patients have limited health literacy, predominantly among the older age, Malay ethnicity and those with lower income and educational level. Asthma control was poor in 22.3% (n= 109) of patients and only 15% (n=74) received either written or verbal asthma action plan (AAP). Of that 15% of patients who received AAP, only 3% (n=6) have the confident to use it at home. Full data including the associations will be available during the conference.**Conclusion:**Based on the interim analysis, the prevalence of limited of health literacy among patients with asthma is lower than of the general population level. However, asthma control remains poor with less than a third received AAP to self-manage their asthma at home. Further analysis is needed to look at the associations of health literacy level with the sociodemographic factors and asthma control.**References:**1. Aris T, Yusoff M, Ghani A, Ahmad N, Omar A, Tee GH, et al. National Health and Morbidity Survey. In: Health IoP, editor. Kuala Lumpur, 2015:291.
2. Federman AD, Wolf MS, Sofianou A, O’Conor R, Martynenko M, Halm EA, et al. Asthma outcomes are poor among older adults with low health literacy. *Journal of Asthma* 2014;51(2):162-67.

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