



Abstract Details

Title: **Patients' and parental perceptions about childhood asthma and its control**
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Session: Abstract Session 3A - Lilly Ballroom, 29/05/2015, 14:10 - 15:30

Research Ideas on Respiratory Conditions and Tobacco Dependency

Research Question:

What are patients' and parental perceptions about childhood asthma and its control?

Background:

Childhood asthma is a common respiratory condition but the prevalence varies widely from 1.6% to 36.8% between countries. The prevalence and control of asthma also differ between ethnic groups. In Malaysia, the prevalence ranges from 5% to 8.5%. The prevalence is highest in Indians (10.1%), followed by the Malays (9.2%) and the Chinese (6.6%). However, control of asthma was poorest in Malays (35.7%), followed by Indians (33.7%) and in Chinese (10.6%).

Previous studies has shown that genetic and socio economic status could not fully explained the variation, and it is suggested that ethnicity and cultural influence plays a bigger role. Communication barrier, misconception of medication and food, non-acceptance to treatment and social stigma were some of the perceptions which influenced the management of asthma in some ethnic groups with poor asthma control.

Thus, this study aims to explore the reasons contributing to poor asthma control in children from different ethnic groups in Malaysia. By identifying these factors, we hope to develop a culture-specific and sensitive intervention to improve asthma control in children.

Possible Methodology:

Phase 1

A qualitative study to explore the reasons contributing to poor asthma control in children from different ethnicities. It will be conducted in health clinics in the Klang Valley. Participants will be the patients and their caregivers with poor asthma control who attended the clinic.

A topic guide based on the biopsychosocial model will be developed. Participants will be invited to attend either a focus group discussion or an in depth-interview. Participant information leaflet will be given and written consent will be obtained. Interviews will be conducted using a semi structured topic guide. It will be audio recorded and

transcribed verbatim. Two coders will code the interviews independently. Data will be analysed using thematic analysis.

Phase 2

Based on the finding of phase 1, an intervention will be developed to improve the asthma control e.g pamphlets to improve patients' understanding of asthma and its management targeting specifically on the 3 main ethnicities (Malay, Chinese, Indian). The intervention will be disseminated to the health providers to help them manage children with asthma.

Funding: possible research grant from University of Malaya or external grant

Questions to discuss:

- Model use for qualitative research – is biopsychosocial model the best model?
- Population – Children: What age should be included?
- Focus group discussion: Should we mix different ethnicity in one interview or separate them?

Declaration of Interest:

None

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