

THE PREVALENCE OF COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING UPTAKE VIA FECAL OCCULT BLOOD TEST AND ITS ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG ELDERLY OF PAWE IN KLANG VALLEY, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third most common cancer worldwide and predominantly affects the elderly. In Malaysia, despite its widely available and free screening program using fecal occult blood test (FOBT), the uptake is low, with studies proving strong associations between several variables and FOBT uptake. OBJECTIVES: To determine the prevalence and factors associated with CRC screening uptake via FOBT among elderly of Pusat Aktiviti warga Emas (PAWE) in Klang Valley, Malaysia. METHODOLOGY: A cross-sectional study was conducted among 336 elderly registered with PAWE across Klang Valley. Stratified sampling with a probability proportionate-to-size method was used. Respondents were selected using a simple random sampling method. Self-administered questionnaire adapted from published studies was used. RESULTS: The prevalence of FOBT uptake was 21.6%. Majority of the respondents were female (81.8%) and Malay (79.6%). Factors associated with FOBT uptake were sex ($p=0.036$), education level ($p=0.018$), doctor's recommendation ($p<0.001$), knowing someone having CRC ($p=0.002$) and perceived susceptibility ($p<0.001$). Multiple logistic regression analyses showed being female ($aOR=2.417, 95\% CI: 1.145-5.101$), having higher education level ($aOR=2.114, 95\% CI: 1.012-4.416$), doctor's recommendation ($aOR=8.849, 95\% CI: 4.587-16.949$), perceived barriers ($aOR = 2.113, 95\% CI: 1.058-4.220$) and perceived susceptibility ($aOR=2.309, 95\% CI: 1.230-4.329$) were the predictors for FOBT uptake among the respondents. CONCLUSION: Effective health promotion using precision public health approach is crucial to increase FOBT uptake, targeting males and those with low education levels. It is encouraged to regularly evaluate the community to determine and address new barriers, besides training its champions to assess their susceptibility to CRC.

Keywords: Elderly, colorectal cancer, fecal occult blood test, screening uptake
