

Treatment seeking behaviour for malaria outside formal health centres in the Aliero local government area, Kebbi state, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: As a result of absence and poor access to formal health centres, in most malarious areas of sub-Saharan Africa, individuals have resorted to other treatment options for malaria. Hence, it is important to investigate why, where and how malaria is treated outside the formal health centres. **Method:** This study was undertaken in Aliero, Sabiel, Kashim-zama and Jiga villages of Aliero local government area, Kebbi State, Nigeria. Two hundred households were randomly selected and interviewed using standardised questionnaire. **Results:** Home treatment with allopathic medicine (62.5%), homemade herbal preparation (18.0%), traditional healer (3.5%), medicinal plants sold by market vendors (27%) and patent medicine vendors (24%) were the reported first line malaria treatment options outside formal health centres. Immediate treatment started when child is sick, reported by 58% respondents. Cause of malaria was defined correctly by all and lack of money (26%) was the reason, given for malaria treatment outside formal health facilities. Hospital (65%) and traditional healer (28.5%) were the second line treatment, when first line treatment was ineffective, but knowledge of malaria symptom was not satisfactory. Uncomplicated disease (56.5%). **Conclusion:** Home treatment of malaria is a common practice in the study area, and it can be a complementary option to improve access to prompt and effective malaria treatment outside the formal health services. Therefore, to make home treatment of malaria effective, the primary caregiver of households should be educated and provided with guidelines of malaria diagnosis and treatment as knowledge of malaria symptom was reported poor.

KEY WORDS:

Treatment, behaviour, malaria, Kebbi state, Nigeria

Med J Malaysia Vol 72 Supplement 1 August 2017:A85

Use of e-cigarette among Malaysian male adults: Findings from Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2011 and National E-Cigarette Survey 2016

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) has become prevalent in many countries including Malaysia. Use of e-cigarettes has generated a lot of debates on its health effects and is a major public health concern. This study aimed to examine the use of e-cigarettes among Malaysian male adults aged 18 years and above in 2011 and 2016. **Methods:** Data were obtained from the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) 2011 and National E-Cigarette Survey (NECS) 2016. These were nationally representative household surveys using multi-stage cluster sampling design. Analyses were performed by using SPSS. **Results:** Overall prevalence of e-cigarette use among Malaysian adults aged 18 years and above were 0.9% (0.4-1.8) in 2011 and 2.8% (2.2-3.6) in 2016. E-cigarette use among male current smokers increased significantly from 3.5% (1.7-7.0) to 9.8% (7.5-12.8) in 2011 and 2016 respectively. E-cigarette use among male former smokers were 1.5% (0.2-10.2) in 2011 and 4.3% (2.0-9.1) in 2016. The prevalence of e-cigarette use among male never smokers was 2.1% (1.2-3.5) in 2016. The three main reasons of e-cigarette use among male adults from NECS were: to experiment/try (47.0%; 95%CI: 38.1-56.0); to quit tobacco smoking (16.2%; 95%CI: 9.8-25.5); and to reduce tobacco smoking (9.6%; 95%CI: 4.6-18.9). **Conclusions:** The prevalence of e-cigarette use among male dual users aged 18 years and above increased significantly from 2011 to 2016. Surveillance in monitoring these dual users are needed. In addition, it is important to implement prevention control policies to protect never smokers from uptake of smoking through e-cigarettes. Further studies are warranted to justify the reasons for using e-cigarettes as claimed by this population.