KNOWLEDGE, PERCEPTION, ATTITUDES, PRACTICES, AND WILLINGNESS OF DENTISTS IN JAKARTA IN TREATING PATIENTS WITH HIV/AIDS

Abstract:

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to assess knowledge, perception, attitudes, practices, and willingness of dentists in Jakarta, Indonesia, associated with dental treatment for patients with HIV/AIDS.

Methods: A cross-sectional survey was conducted using a self-administered questionnaire toward 189 dentists in 15 sub districts randomly selected in Jakarta. Dentist with experience of any postgraduate study related to medicine or dentistry was excluded.

Results: Majority of respondents had poor knowledge (76.7%) and attitudes (58.2%), with average level of perception and practices associated with dental treatment for patients with HIV/AIDS. Among 5 topics in the knowledge section, the lowest result was about dental management, while the highest was about HIV transmission. Only 47.1% showed willingness to give dental treatment for patients with HIV/AIDS. Two main reason of refusal reported by the dentists was fear of HIV transmission and lack of knowledge about dental management for HIV/AIDS patients. Multivariate analysis revealed several factors which significantly associated with dentist’ willingness: positive perception (OR 7.17; 95% CI, 1.32-38.87; p = 0.022), average attitude (OR 6.38; 95% CI, 2.91-13.98; p = 0.000), not working in private practice (OR 4.09; 95% CI, 1.13-14.75; p = 0.032), male gender (OR 3.74; 95% CI, 1.48-9.47; p = 0.005), and experience in treating HIV-positive patients (OR 2.21; 95% CI, 0.99-4.91; p = 0.050).

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**Conclusion:** Serious educational intervention urgently needed to be done to improve dentist’ knowledge and attitude associated with dental treatment for patients with HIV/AIDS, along with several infection control practices.

**Keywords:** knowledge, perception, attitudes, practices, willingness, dentist, HIV