

## A STUDY TO ASSESS KNOWLEDGE AND COMMON PRACTICE FOR LATE BOOKING IN PERLIS

Rusli Nur Atikah Nureen<sup>1</sup>, Mior Othman Mior Mohd Khairil<sup>1</sup>, Kiro Mariah<sup>1</sup>,

1. Kuala Perlis Health Clinic, Perlis, Ministry of Health

**Introduction:** In Perlis, from 2014 – 2016, cases of late booking was less than 30%. The study was carried out to assess the knowledge and common practice of antenatal late bookers in Perlis.

**Methodology:** Data was collected in 2017 by distributing validated questionnaires to all 9 polyclinics to those who registered late (>12 weeks of gestation). The ‘content validity’ was carried out by four family medicine specialist (FMS), a public health specialist and a researcher from Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, 9 MOs from each health center, health centre matrons and sisters . The pilot project (face validity) was done to 30 patients in Klinik Kesihatan Kuala Perlis. Results were discussed with FMS and a few medical in Klinik Kesihatan Kangar. The questionnaire was distributed as a self-administered questionnaire given to patients identified as late bookers by MCH staff nurses. Relevant data for this study demographic data, knowledge score and common practice were analysed using SPSS version 20. Illiterate and foreigners were excluded from this study. **Results:** A total of 250 samples of late bookers were selected. Among them, Malays (87.2%) and non-Malays (12.8%). Age group was highest between 21-35 years old (70.8%). 92.8% were married and 68.8% were housewives. 44.8% had low household income. The knowledge mean score was 10.08 (SD=3.794). Level of knowledge was associated with intentional late booking (p=0.012). Avoiding frequent TCA was the commonest practice among antenatal late bookers (50%). **Discussion/ Conclusion:** Level of knowledge was important to develop awareness among antenatal mothers in order to have good antenatal care.