

Awareness And Practice Of White Coat Hygiene Among Clinical Students In A Malaysian Medical School

Muhammad Irsyad Iman Zakariah^{1*}, Iza Syazwina Mohamad Yusof², Sahira Afiqah Sahimi³, Siti Sarah Rosli⁴, Norhafizah A Manan⁵, Ahmad Y Asmadi⁶

^{1*}University of Cyberjaya, Malaysia

²University of Cyberjaya, Malaysia

³University of Cyberjaya, Malaysia

⁴University of Cyberjaya, Malaysia

⁵University of Cyberjaya, Malaysia

⁶National Defence University of Malaysia

Abstract

Medical students are aware of the importance of maintaining a clean white coat in preventing infection from being spread. This study aims to assess the awareness and practice of good hygiene on the white coat and the association between the awareness and practice on the white coat hygiene. This cross-sectional study was conducted among 133 clinical year students at the University of Cyberjaya, a private medical university in Malaysia. Awareness and practice were assessed using a self-administered questionnaire. This study found most of the clinical students were aware of most of the aspects of whitecoat hygiene. With regards to practice, more than half of the respondents were practising as recommended except for wearing whitecoats at the cafeteria. Most clinical year students still lack effective whitecoat hygiene practice despite a high level of awareness. More effort is needed to encourage medical students to practice a good whitecoat hygiene practice.

Keywords: Awareness; Practice; Medical students; Whitecoat hygiene, Clinical Year

1. INTRODUCTION

Doctors and medical students wear white coats as a symbol of identification among patients, to put their medical equipment and to protect their cloth from the microorganism. However, white coats are shown to be potential transmitting vectors for pathogenic organisms which lead to hospital-acquired infection (Banu, et al., 2012, Mishra et al., 2020; Qaday et al., 2015). According to Muhadi et al, 2007,