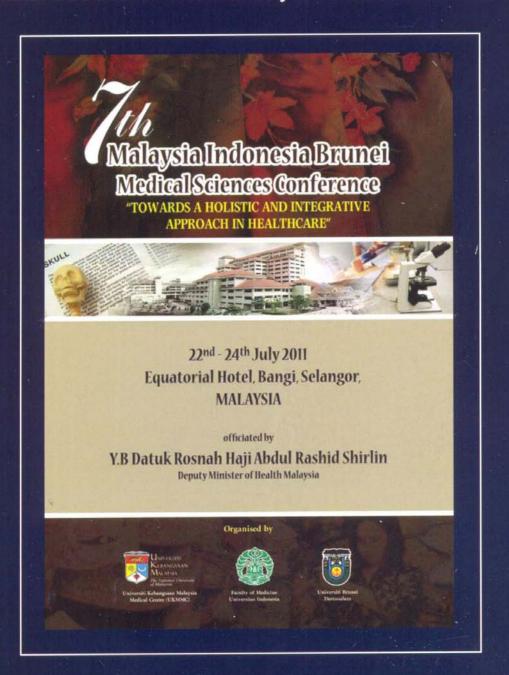


# MEDICINE Health

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# KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF INFLUENZA A (H1N1) AMONG RURAL COMMUNITY IN MALAYSIA

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Background

The 2009 influenza A (H1N1) pandemic has affected most countries of the world including Malaysia in a short span of time. Assessment of general public's knowledge, attitude and practice is needed for better prevention and control activities.

### Materials & Methods

A cross sectional questionnaire survey was conducted in rural community (Kuala Selangor), Malaysia among 250 individuals from 5 November till 26 November 2009.

### Results

The mean age of respondents was 45.9 (16.58) years old. The highest knowledge score were among those age 36-45 years old (mean= $7.9\pm2.11$ , p<0.001), females (mean= $7.1\pm2.23$ , p=0.904), higher educational level (median= $9\pm1$ , p<0.001) and working respondents (mean= $7.1\pm2.09$ , p=0.60). Attitude score were more towards older age more than 60 years old (mean= $8.2\pm1.22$ , p=0.380), females (mean= $7.9\pm1.45$ , p=0.383), higher educational level (mean= $8.4\pm1.16$ , p=0.070) and non-working (mean= $8.0\pm1.42$ , p=0.05) respondents. Practice score was higher and significantly different in higher education respondents (mean= $9.0\pm1.89$ , p<0.001) but no other demographic factors. There was significant correlation between knowledge and attitude(r=0.38), knowledge and practice(r=0.51) and attitude and practice(r=0.47).

## Conclusion

Knowledge, attitude and practice influence each other in pandemic Influenza A (H1N1). Efforts should be targeted at educating the general population to improve practice in the current pandemic, as well as for future epidemics.

# Keywords:

KAP, H1N1, Rural