

Volume 6, No. 1 (Supplement)
June 2011
ISSN 1823-2140

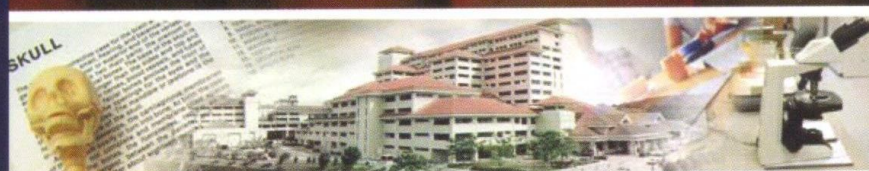
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MEDICINE & Health

The Official Journal of The Faculty of Medicine UKM



22nd - 24th July 2011
Equatorial Hotel, Bangi, Selangor,
MALAYSIA

officiated by
Y.B Datuk Rosnah Haji Abdul Rashid Shirlin
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RISK FACTORS FOR CONTACT LENS RELATED MICROBIAL KERATITIS

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Background:

Contact lens related microbial keratitis (CLRMK) is a complication of contact lens wear and is sight threatening. A hospital case control study was conducted to determine the risk factors for CLRMK in patients with CLRMK in government hospitals in the Klang Valley.

Materials and Methods:

All patients who presented with CLRMK (n=94) at the hospitals were selected as cases and controls (n=94) were taken from contact lens users without CLRMK. Self administered questionnaire in *Bahasa Malaysia* was used to collect data on socio-demographics, contact lens characteristics, personal habit and contact lens care procedures. Data was analysed using SPSS 16.

Results:

The most common causative agent was *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Chinese ethnicity (aOR 0.126, CI 0.045, 0.355 p=0.001) and Indian ethnicity (aOR 0.295, CI 0.088, 0.989 p=0.048) had decreased risks for CLRMK while Malay ethnicity was a predictor for CLRMK with an increased risk of 70%-87%. Non-compliance to lens care procedures contributed to an increased risk of 2.6 times for CLRMK (aOR 2.590, CI 1.003, 6.689 p=0.049). Not washing hands with soap (aOR 2.98, CI 1.02, 8.70 p=0.046), not performing rubbing technique (aOR 3, CI 1.19, 7.54 p=0.019) and not cleaning lens case with multipurpose solution (aOR 3.24, CI 1.46, 7.19 p=0.004) were identified as predictors for CLRMK.

Conclusion:

The risk of CLRMK is increased in Malays and in non-compliant wearers.

Keywords:

contact lens, microbial keratitis, lens care procedures, risk factors