

Level of Knowledge and Awareness Among Parents Regarding the Care of Children with Thalassaemia

ABSTRACT

Background This study assessed parental knowledge and awareness of children with thalassaemia. Thalassaemia care among 65 parents at a Kota Kinabalu hospital focuses on parental knowledge and awareness of children with thalassaemia. The objectives were to identify parents' level of knowledge of thalassaemia care and assess their awareness of specific care needs. **Methods:** This was a descriptive, cross-sectional study of the thalassaemia families of patients at Likas Women and Children's Hospital, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Using random sampling. The study involved 65 respondents from Sabah Women and Children in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Data from questionnaires and tests were processed using SPSS version 24, with descriptive statistics analysing frequency and percentage, expressed as mean \pm standard deviation. **Results** Most respondents had a high level of knowledge about thalassaemia, an inherited disease caused by insufficient red blood cell supply. They understood that untreated conditions could deteriorate thalassaemia patients but could lead normal lives with proper therapy. They also knew that thalassaemia could be detected through blood tests and that blood donation could be beneficial. However, they had moderate knowledge of the connection between thalassaemia and anaemia, blood transfusions as the only treatment, and their ability to identify and avoid thalassaemia during pregnancy. **Conclusion** This study emphasises the need for education, community engagement, and healthcare involvement to enhance the understanding and support of individuals with thalassaemia, suggesting that comprehensive strategies, including education programs and collaborations with local organisations, can be implemented.