

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

A descriptive comparative study was designed and examined the differences of family support for pulmonary TB patients who were successful and who were unsuccessful in complying with the DOTS program. This study was conducted in Medan. Participants were recruited using purposive sampling from four community health centers: Petisah Community Health Center, Medan Johor Community Health Center, Medan Amplas Community Health Center and Kampung Baru Community Health Center. Sixty three pulmonary TB patients who were successful in complying with the DOTS program and sixty three pulmonary TB patients who were unsuccessful in complying with the DOTS program participated in this study. Data were collected from November 2006 to January 2007. A family support questionnaire developed based on three dimensions of family support and consisted of 41 items. Three experts examined the content validity of instrument in English version and Indonesia version and the reliability of the instrument for successful group was .89 and for unsuccessful group was .93, respectively. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and two independent sample Mann Whitney test.

Summary of the study findings

Participants involved in this study were 63 pulmonary TB patients who were successful in complying with the DOTS program and 63 pulmonary TB patients who were unsuccessful in complying with the DOTS program. Pulmonary TB patients who were successful in complying with the DOTS program ranged in age from 20 to 78

years. Most participants (57.1%) were females and the majority of ethnicities was Malay (25.4%), and the majority educational level was senior high school (38.1%). Most pulmonary TB patients who were unsuccessful in complying with the DOTS program were males (61.9%), Javanese (34.9%) and ranged in age from 20 to 72 years. The majority of the participants in this group had the educational level of junior high (42.9%).

Pulmonary TB patients who were successful in complying with the DOTS program received high level of family support ($M = 3.50$, $SD = .07$), and pulmonary TB patients who were unsuccessful in complying with the DOTS program received moderate level of family support ($M = 2.28$, $SD = .13$). Mann Whitney test was used to test the difference mean between two group in this study. The findings indicated that family support for pulmonary TB patients who were successful in complying with the DOTS program and family support for pulmonary TB patients who were unsuccessful in complying with the DOTS program were significantly different ($p < .001$), family support perceived by pulmonary TB patients who were successful in complying with the DOTS program was higher than family support perceived by pulmonary TB patients who were unsuccessful in complying with the DOTS program.

Limitation of the study

As there had been no study about family support perceived by pulmonary TB patients in complying with the DOTS program. In this study the questionnaire of family support was developed by the researcher, in further research this family support questionnaire need more analyzed and developed to make the questionnaire more fit with the family support dimensions.

Implications and Recommendations

Nursing Practice

1. The findings of the study provide evidence for clinical practice, especially for nursing practitioners in community health centers to understand how family support influences patient compliance.

2. The findings can be used as a guideline for nursing practitioners to educate family member to support their family who has pulmonary TB to complying with the DOTS program, especially in terms of expression of caring, encouragement, giving information to the pulmonary TB about TB and the treatment regimen and support the pulmonary TB with constructive feedback, because family support influences compliance to the treatment regimen.

Nursing Education

The findings can be used by nurse educators to teach nursing students in community nursing subjects, especially related to giving education to family members about family support for pulmonary TB patients and how to promote compliance by pulmonary TB patients.

Nursing Research

1. The findings can be used as baseline data for development of further research related to how to give adequate family support, what factors influence family support, and how to promote compliance to the treatment regimen.

2. Further research should be focused on relationships among ethnicities, gender, knowledge and compliance to the treatment regimen.