

## RESEARCH NOTE

# TRICHOMONIASIS IN COSMOPOLITAN MALAYSIA: IS IT UNDER CONTROL OR IS IT UNDER DIAGNOSED?

RN Amal<sup>1</sup>, MY Aisah<sup>2</sup>, MS Fatmah<sup>2</sup> and MI Noor Hayati<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Cyberjaya University College of Medical Sciences; <sup>2</sup>Department of Parasitology and Entomology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Abstract.** In a prospective, observational study, 380 women attending a family planning (LPPKN) clinic and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) clinic in Kuala Lumpur between January 2008 and November 2008 were enrolled. Patient information was obtained from the medical records and patients voluntarily completed questionnaires. Three vaginal swabs from the posterior fornix were taken from each patient examined. Different staining methods and cultivation in Diamonds medium were performed on the collected samples. Study subjects recruited in this survey were mostly young, with a geometric mean ages of 37.31 years (LPPKN clinic) and 32.06 years (STD clinic). Malay, Chinese, Indians and others ethnic groups accounted for 91, 4, 2 and 3%, respectively, at the LPPKN clinic. At the STD clinic, almost all subjects were Chinese. The prevalence rate of trichomoniasis was 0.36% at the LPPKN clinic and 0.0% at the STD clinic. Our findings suggested no association between contraceptive methods used and trichomoniasis infection at the LPPKN clinic. At the STD clinic, it was found a high risk for STD acquisition was not associated with trichomoniasis positivity. The data demonstrated the prevalence of trichomoniasis was very low at LPPKN clinic and absent at STD clinic. The high prevalence rates of other STD among sex workers found in this survey suggest the need for more active interventions focused on this group.

**Key words:** trichomoniasis, prevalent survey, Malaysia

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Correspondence: Amal R Nimir, Department of Parasitology and Entomology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Jalan Raja Muda Abdul Aziz, 50300 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.  
Tel: 00603 92897411; Fax: 00603 26982640  
E-mail: aralmadi@yahoo.com