

# BJMS

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**ABSTRACT**

## **A Comparison of Salivary Properties and Caries Status between Beta-Thalassemia Major Patients and Healthy Patients in Hospital Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak Sabah**

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**DOI: 10.51200/bjms.v17i.4317**

**Keywords:** *thalassaemia, salivary properties, caries, DMFT, oral hygiene*

**NMRR Research ID:** 21-01993-G1P

**Introduction:** Thalassaemia is the most common inherited blood disorder in Malaysia, and the majority of patients are from Sabah. The disease itself poses significant morbidities, and its management is costly. Previous studies showed increased caries prevalence among these patients attributed to possible changes in saliva properties. The objective was to investigate the prevalence of saliva properties and caries among patients with thalassaemia compared to healthy individuals. **Methods:** Thirty-nine patients from each group aged between 13 – 16 years were recruited for the study. Oral hygiene was scored using the OHI-S tool, while the caries prevalence was scored by measuring DMFT. Saliva properties were measured using the saliva buffering kit, including salivary flow (resting and stimulated), pH, consistency, and buffering capacity. The chi-square test was used for statistical analysis for all categorical variables, and the t-test to compare continuous data. **Results:** There were no significant differences in the mean age (mean age = 14.4 years) and salivary properties ( $p > 0.05$ ) between these two groups. However, the median DMFT score for thalassaemia is 1.00, and for the healthy patient is 3.00. Therefore, more healthy patients have good oral hygiene ( $p = 0.001$ ). **Conclusion:** Our study showed no significant difference in DMFT in patients with thalassaemia. This could be attributed to these patients already being under our regular care. This study supports the null hypothesis that patients with thalassemia have no changes in saliva properties. We did notice better oral hygiene among healthy patients; hence, continuous preventive measures must be emphasized among patients with thalassaemia.

**ABSTRACT**

## **Impact of COVID-19 Towards Antibiotics Consumption in Hospital Queen Elizabeth II**

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**DOI:** [10.51200/bjms.v17i.4316](https://doi.org/10.51200/bjms.v17i.4316)

**Keywords:** *antibiotics, COVID-19, antimicrobial stewardship*

**NMRR Research ID:** NMRR ID-22-00863-AET

**Introduction:** The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) activities in Hospital Queen Elizabeth II (HQEI), which has led to a surge in antibiotics consumption, particularly meropenem, vancomycin, piperacillin-tazobactam, ceftazidime, and ceftriaxone. This study aimed to compare the prevalence of antibiotics consumption in HQEI before (2018/2019) and during (2020/2021) the pandemic to explore its impact on antibiotic costs and bacterial resistance. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study where the antibiotic surveillance report from 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2021 in HQEI was reviewed. Patients above 18 years old who were prescribed the selected antibiotics were included. Antibiotic consumption, costs, and multidrug-resistant organism (MRO) cases were compared before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Antibiotic consumption was measured by defined daily dosing (DDD) per 1,000 patient days. **Results:** A total of 267,953 reviews were analysed. Despite a slight rise in the bed occupancy rate, the overall consumption of selected antibiotics had significantly increased by 45.2% ( $p<0.0001$ ). The intensive care unit had the highest increase in antibiotic consumption (+114.3%,  $p<0.0001$ ). Remarkably, there was a growing trend for using vancomycin, meropenem, ceftazidime, and piperacillin-tazobactam ( $p<0.005$ ). All this contributed to a significant surge in antibiotic-acquired cost by 64.4% (RM909,898.80 vs RM1,486,791.20,  $p<0.0001$ ). Notably, MRO cases had also significantly increased MRO

*Acinetobacter* (+197%) and Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriales (+92%). **Conclusion:** High antibiotics consumption and MRO cases were observed during the pandemic, but the

factors contributing to the surge were not explored. Nonetheless, the AMS programme is imperative for the vigilant use of antibiotics and combatting antimicrobial resistance.

**ABSTRACT**

## Perception of Periodontal Health Among Patients with BPE Score 4 in Tawau, Sabah, and the Associated Factors: A Cross-Sectional Study

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DOI: 10.51200/bjms.v17i.4292

**Keywords:** *periodontal health perception, BPE score 4, oral health practice*

**NMRR Research ID:** NMRR-21-02157-JGS

**Introduction:** Individuals' perception of periodontal health is influenced not only by signs and symptoms of periodontal diseases but also by socio-demographics and oral health practices. This study aimed to determine the association between self-perceived periodontal health, sociodemographic characteristics, and oral health practices. **Methods:** This is a cross-sectional study using a validated questionnaire, which comprises sociodemographic characteristics, oral health practices, and self-perceived periodontal health. The calculated sample size was 149 adult subjects in Tawau District, Sabah with a Basic Periodontal Examination (BPE) score of 4. Multiple logistic/linear regression was used to determine the association between the variables. The significant level was set at  $p < 0.05$ . **Results:** The total number of respondents was 149 and the mean (SD) age was 47.7 (14.92) years. Having been told by a dentist to have periodontal diseases ( $\beta = 1.167$ ,  $Exp(B) = 3.214$ ,  $P = 0.026$ ) was found to be significantly associated with the perception of having periodontal diseases. The oral health practice of using mouthwash regularly ( $\beta = 1.027$ ,  $Exp(B) = 2.791$ ,  $P = 0.020$ ), perceived to have bleeding gum ( $\beta = 2.293$ ,  $Exp(B) = 9.906$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and perceived to have wobbly teeth ( $\beta = 0.990$ ,  $Exp(B) = 2.690$ ,  $P = 0.037$ ) were significantly associated with the perception of having gingival swelling. The use of dental floss regularly was significantly associated with the perception of needing specialist care for periodontal diseases ( $\beta = 1.662$ ,  $Exp(B) =$

5.268, P=0.017). **Conclusion:** In conclusion, dental visits and oral health practices were significantly associated with self-perceived periodontal health. This study helps to improve

the understanding among dental officers of the perception of periodontal health hence increasing the referral to periodontists.

**ABSTRACT**

## **A Comparative Study Between Graftless and Grafted Maxillary Sinus Lift Procedures for Implant Placement**

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DOI: 10.51200/bjms.v17i.4228

**Keywords:** *dental implants, osseointegration, augment bone graft, osteogenesis*

**JEPeM USM Code:** USM/JEPeM/16070231

**Introduction:** Dental implant survival requires the presence of peri-implant bone for complete and stable osseointegration. Grafted sinus lift procedures are predictable methods to augment deficient ridges, but may give rise to complications, comorbidities, and additional costs. Recent evidence showed positive outcomes of the graft-less sinus lift technique. However, studies comparing the outcome of the grafted and graft-less sinus lift procedures are still lacking. This study aims to compare the implant stability, bone density, and pocket depth outcomes between grafted and graft less sinus lift procedures for implant placement. **Methods:** Ten patients underwent bilateral sinus lift procedures using a lateral window approach (i.e., grafted at one site, and graft less at the contralateral site). Assessments of implant stability, bone density, and pocket depth surrounding the implant were carried out at day 0, 3 months, 6 months, and 1 year post-surgery. **Results:** Results revealed an overall significant increase in implant stability ( $p < 0.0001$ ) and bone density ( $p < 0.0001$ ), and a reduction in pocket depth ( $p < 0.0001$ ) one-year post-surgery. Implant stability and pocket depth assessment were similar between grafted and graft fewer groups ( $p > 0.05$ ). Nevertheless, the grafted group displayed a higher increment of bone density at the buccal ( $p < 0.0001$ ) and mesial ( $p = 0.0068$ ) sites, but not at the distal ( $p = 0.0068$ ) and palatal ( $p = 0.3934$ ) sites, compared to the graft less group. **Conclusion:** These findings demonstrate comparable and promising outcomes for

healing, implant stability, and bone formation in the maxillary sinus with and without grafting or bone substitutes. Essentially, graft less sinus lift is a reliable alternative to the

grafted technique, with potentially reduced risk of complications and comorbidities, and cost-effective.

**ABSTRACT**

## **A Study on the Prevalence of Stress and Its Associated Factors Among Antenatal Mothers in Hospital Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak Sabah**

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**DOI: 10.51200/bjms.v17i.3151**

**Keywords:** prevalence, stress, factors, antenatal stress, social support

**NMRR Research ID:** 19-2949-50520

**Introduction:** The apparent existence of stress during pregnancy can become overwhelming issues that could be detrimental to maternal and foetal well-being. This study aims to determine the prevalence of stress among antenatal mothers and its associated factors to assess the extent to of this stress trend phenomenon exists. **Methods:** This study was conducted using a quantitative survey in cross-sectional with a descriptive design involving 60 samples collected using convenience sampling in Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinic Sabah Women and Children Hospital (SWACH). The perceived stress scale (PSS-10) was used to measure respondents perceived stress level which has 10 items questions using a Likert scale. The perceived stress level was determined as low, moderate, and severe by the total scoring from PSS-10. Inferential statistics using IBM SPSS 23 was used to determine the relationship of stress with demographic data (age), obstetric variables (parity and gestational age), and support. **Results:** The result has shown that about 68.3% of respondents reported perceived moderate stress levels. Age, parity, and gestational age are found not significant with stress ( $p > 0.05$ ). However, there is a significant relationship between stress and the support system ( $p = 0.036$ ). **Conclusion:** This study concluded the presence of stress during pregnancy. Pregnant women with good social support tend to have low to moderate perceived stress levels. The acknowledgement of the

presence of stress during antenatal and the possible positive effect of social support highlight us to strengthen our social support

and continue to maintain efficient antenatal care in preventing the detrimental effect of stress on maternal and foetal well-being.

**ABSTRACT**

## **Parental Experiences in the Management of Children with Cleft Lip and/or Palate in Tawau Hospital**

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**DOI: 10.51200/bjms.v17i.2821**

**Keywords:** *cleft lip, cleft palate, Cleft Evaluation Profile, cleft management, oro-cleft community*

**NMRR Research ID:** 18-4016-44337

**Introduction:** Cleft lip and palate (CLP) has a profound psycho-social impact on patients and parents. It is important to assess parental experiences and satisfaction as they play important role in the care of the affected child, especially during the surgical intervention phase. This study assessed the parental experiences towards caring for CLP children, and their level of satisfaction with the treatment received and investigated the relationship between socioeconomic factors and parental satisfaction towards cleft management. **Methods:** The study involved 44 respondents out of 70 parents of CLP children treated in the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Department, Tawau Hospital. A pro forma was designed to assist data collection and Cleft Evaluation Profile (CEP) was used for the assessment. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 27. **Results:** Overall, 100% of respondents were "very satisfied" and "satisfied" with the treatment received. Parents were most satisfied with the face profile (95%). The appearance of teeth and nose were the most dissatisfied features reported at 43% and 16% respectively. The socioeconomic background did not affect the level of parental satisfaction whilst the amount of knowledge about cleft treatment was seen to affect the level of satisfaction among parents significantly ( $p<0.05$ ). **Conclusion:** Our findings showed that parents had generally positive experiences in the management of CLP children. The majority of parents were satisfied with the overall

care and surgical outcome. The difference in CEP ratings showed parents with different amounts of knowledge related to cleft have different satisfaction levels with the surgical

outcome. This is valuable in continuing the service and reaching out more to the oro-cleft community.

**ABSTRACT**

## **Nasolabial Incision: A Natural Line to Facilitate Removal of a Huge Spindle Cell Lipoma of Cheek – A Case Report**

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DOI: 10.51200/bjms.v17i.3898

**Keywords:** *spindle cell lipoma, nasolabial incision, atypical lipomatous tumour*

**NMRR Research ID:** 22-02099-EC6

**Introduction:** Spindle cell lipoma is a distinct entity of lipomatous tumour, that typically arises in the subcutaneous tissue of the posterior neck and shoulder. Lipomas found in the oral and maxillofacial region rarely reach a size larger than 2 cm. Challenging surgical decision-making as in the present case appears in the aesthetic cheek zones which are highly visible and important parts of a person's countenance. The role of natural line in the complete resection of these neoplasms with minimal risk of recurrence and its clinicopathologic characteristics is highlighted. **Case presentation:** A 55-year-old diabetic, hypertensive obese man presented with a huge asymptomatic slow-growing cheek mass compromising facial aesthetics and discomfort in mastication. MRI was suggestive of an atypical lipomatous tumour with suspicion of intramuscular involvement. Gross examination showed a soft multilobulated mass measuring 8.0 mm in maximum dimension with a brownish jelly-like material. The tumour was successfully removed with no post-operative complications. The histopathological and immunohistochemical analyses confirmed its diagnosis. **Discussion:** Due to the lesion being located subcutaneously, a technique via nasolabial incision approach satisfies the need for surgical exposure and facilitates operative performance. The scar was expertly placed and hidden in a naturally appearing skin crease and virtually impossible to see, thus named a "natural line" incision. **Conclusion:**

A wider intraoral incision potentially would pose a danger to the facial nerve and parotid duct. Operations to maintain and improve function are not feasible without incisions and the subsequent formation of scars. Therefore,

a cosmetically pleasing incision should be used. It requires experience, detailed knowledge, and careful planning to achieve the intended improvement of function with a minimal loss of aesthetics.

**ABSTRACT**

## Diagnostic Challenge: A Pericardial Mass in Disguise

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DOI: 10.51200/bjms.v17i.4231

**Keywords:** *pericardium, tuberculous pericarditis, tuberculous pericarditis*

**NMRR Research ID:** 22-01847-W1L

**Introduction:** Pericardial mass is relatively rare and usually caused by malignancy; seldom by inflammatory or infectious diseases. Herein, we report a case of pericardial mass which eventually was treated as tuberculous pericarditis. **Case presentation:** A 53-year-old lady presented with chest pain, progressive dyspnoea, loss of appetite, and weight loss (8 kg) over the past 6 months. Physical examination and laboratory tests (including inflammatory and tumour markers) were unremarkable other than tachycardia and iron deficiency anaemia. Echocardiography showed a mass posterior to the aortic valve and the left atrium, with possible involvement of the pulmonary artery and extracardiac structures. Computerized tomography (CT) and cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMRI) further confirmed the presence of a significant mediastinal mass which is contiguous with the pericardial mass. Bronchoalveolar lavage noted no malignant cells or acid-fast bacilli. Open heart tissue biopsy showed multiple nodules on the pericardium, the largest was 2 x 2 cm. Histopathologic examination of the pericardial nodule revealed chronic granulomatous inflammation with central caseating necrosis. The patient was treated for tuberculous pericarditis and started on anti-tuberculosis therapy (ATT) and prednisolone. After 2 months of intensive phase treatment, the patient has clinically improved with a good appetite and weight increment. **Discussion:** Although rarely reported, tuberculous

pericarditis can present as a pericardial mass where the definitive diagnosis is challenging as the presenting symptoms are non-specific, requiring multiple blood investigations, advanced imaging, and invasive procedure.

**Conclusion:** Empirical treatment for tuberculosis may be initiated when clinical suspicion of tuberculous pericarditis is high as the clinical response to ATT may serve as support for the diagnosis.

**ABSTRACT**

## Torsion of Wandering Spleen

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DOI: 10.51200/bjms.v17i.4233

**Keywords:** *wandering spleen, splenic torsion, splenectomy*

**NMRR Research ID:** 23-00856-RVR

**Introduction:** Absent or abnormal laxity of splenic ligaments may give rise to a rare condition called wandering spleen. This condition can be difficult to diagnose due to its non-specific symptoms and clinical findings which are often missed or the patient presents late with a life-threatening complication. **Case presentation:** We are reporting a case of an 11-year-old girl who presented with worsening left-sided abdominal pain and swelling for 1 week associated with no bowel output. Abdominal examination showed a hard, tender mass at the left lower quadrant. Abdominal radiograph revealed dilated proximal bowel loops with a paucity of distal bowel gas. Ultrasonography was done twice in which the latter showed an enlarged spleen at the left lumbar with a whirlpool sign suggesting splenic torsion. Emergency laparotomy was performed, and a non-viable torsed spleen was identified at the left lumbar. A splenectomy was performed. The patient was recovering well post-operatively and was discharged home after 2 weeks postoperative. **Discussion:** Absent or hyperlaxity of splenic ligaments can cause the spleen to wander and predisposes to splenic torsion along its vascular pedicle. It is difficult to diagnose this condition due to its rarity and it mainly remains asymptomatic. These are the reasons why this condition is often missed or presented late. **Conclusion:** Ideally, splenopexy is the treatment of choice but it depends on splenic viability assessment intraoperatively, if it is non-viable, splenectomy is the best option. In a wandering spleen, a high level of suspicion is required for early diagnosis to intervene before any life-threatening complications ensue.

**ABSTRACT**

## **A Comparison of Salivary Properties and Caries Status between Beta-Thalassemia Major Patients and Healthy Patients in Hospital Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak Sabah**

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DOI: 10.51200/bjms.v17i.4317

**Keywords:** *thalassaemia, salivary properties, caries, DMFT, oral hygiene*

**NMRR Research ID:** 21-01993-G1P

**Introduction:** Thalassaemia is the most common inherited blood disorder in Malaysia, and the majority of patients are from Sabah. The disease itself poses significant morbidities, and its management is costly. Previous studies showed increased caries prevalence among these patients attributed to possible changes in saliva properties. The objective was to investigate the prevalence of saliva properties and caries among patients with thalassaemia compared to healthy individuals. **Methods:** Thirty-nine patients from each group aged between 13 – 16 years were recruited for the study. Oral hygiene was scored using the OHI-S tool, while the caries prevalence was scored by measuring DMFT. Saliva properties were measured using the saliva buffering kit, including salivary flow (resting and stimulated), pH, consistency, and buffering capacity. The chi-square test was used for statistical analysis for all categorical variables, and the t-test to compare continuous data. **Results:** There were no significant differences in the mean age (mean age = 14.4 years) and salivary properties ( $p > 0.05$ ) between these two groups. However, the median DMFT score for thalassaemia is 1.00, and for the healthy patient is 3.00. Therefore, more healthy patients have good oral hygiene ( $p = 0.001$ ). **Conclusion:** Our study showed no significant difference in DMFT in patients with thalassaemia. This could be attributed to these patients already being under our regular care. This study supports the null hypothesis that patients with thalassemia have no changes in saliva properties. We did notice better oral hygiene among healthy patients; hence, continuous preventive measures must be emphasized among patients with thalassaemia.

**ABSTRACT**

## **Impact of COVID-19 Towards Antibiotics Consumption in Hospital Queen Elizabeth II**

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**Keywords:** *antibiotics, COVID-19, antimicrobial stewardship*

**NMRR Research ID:** NMRR ID-22-00863-AET

**Introduction:** The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) activities in Hospital Queen Elizabeth II (HQEI), which has led to a surge in antibiotics consumption, particularly meropenem, vancomycin, piperacillin-tazobactam, ceftazidime, and ceftriaxone. This study aimed to compare the prevalence of antibiotics consumption in HQEI before (2018/2019) and during (2020/2021) the pandemic to explore its impact on antibiotic costs and bacterial resistance. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study where the antibiotic surveillance report from 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2021 in HQEI was reviewed. Patients above 18 years old who were prescribed the selected antibiotics were included. Antibiotic consumption, costs, and multidrug-resistant organism (MRO) cases were compared before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Antibiotic consumption was measured by defined daily dosing (DDD) per 1,000 patient days. **Results:** A total of 267,953 reviews were analysed. Despite a slight rise in the bed occupancy rate, the overall consumption of selected antibiotics had significantly increased by 45.2% ( $p<0.0001$ ). The intensive care unit had the highest increase in antibiotic consumption (+114.3%,  $p<0.0001$ ). Remarkably, there was a growing trend for using vancomycin, meropenem, ceftazidime, and piperacillin-tazobactam ( $p<0.005$ ). All this contributed to a significant surge in antibiotic-acquired cost by 64.4% (RM909,898.80 vs RM1,486,791.20,  $p<0.0001$ ). Notably, MRO cases had also significantly increased MRO

*Acinetobacter* (+197%) and Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriales (+92%). **Conclusion:** High antibiotics consumption and MRO cases were observed during the pandemic, but the

factors contributing to the surge were not explored. Nonetheless, the AMS programme is imperative for the vigilant use of antibiotics and combatting antimicrobial resistance.

**ABSTRACT**

## Perception of Periodontal Health Among Patients with BPE Score 4 in Tawau, Sabah, and the Associated Factors: A Cross-Sectional Study

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**Keywords:** *periodontal health perception, BPE score 4, oral health practice*

**NMRR Research ID:** NMRR-21-02157-JGS

**Introduction:** Individuals' perception of periodontal health is influenced not only by signs and symptoms of periodontal diseases but also by socio-demographics and oral health practices. This study aimed to determine the association between self-perceived periodontal health, sociodemographic characteristics, and oral health practices. **Methods:** This is a cross-sectional study using a validated questionnaire, which comprises sociodemographic characteristics, oral health practices, and self-perceived periodontal health. The calculated sample size was 149 adult subjects in Tawau District, Sabah with a Basic Periodontal Examination (BPE) score of 4. Multiple logistic/linear regression was used to determine the association between the variables. The significant level was set at  $p < 0.05$ . **Results:** The total number of respondents was 149 and the mean (SD) age was 47.7 (14.92) years. Having been told by a dentist to have periodontal diseases ( $\beta = 1.167$ ,  $Exp(B) = 3.214$ ,  $P = 0.026$ ) was found to be significantly associated with the perception of having periodontal diseases. The oral health practice of using mouthwash regularly ( $\beta = 1.027$ ,  $Exp(B) = 2.791$ ,  $P = 0.020$ ), perceived to have bleeding gum ( $\beta = 2.293$ ,  $Exp(B) = 9.906$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and perceived to have wobbly teeth ( $\beta = 0.990$ ,  $Exp(B) = 2.690$ ,  $P = 0.037$ ) were significantly associated with the perception of having gingival swelling. The use of dental floss regularly was significantly associated with the perception of needing specialist care for periodontal diseases ( $\beta = 1.662$ ,  $Exp(B) =$

5.268, P=0.017). **Conclusion:** In conclusion, dental visits and oral health practices were significantly associated with self-perceived periodontal health. This study helps to improve

the understanding among dental officers of the perception of periodontal health hence increasing the referral to periodontists.

**ABSTRACT**

## **A Comparative Study Between Graftless and Grafted Maxillary Sinus Lift Procedures for Implant Placement**

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**Keywords:** *dental implants, osseointegration, augment bone graft, osteogenesis*

**JEPeM USM Code:** USM/JEPeM/16070231

**Introduction:** Dental implant survival requires the presence of peri-implant bone for complete and stable osseointegration. Grafted sinus lift procedures are predictable methods to augment deficient ridges, but may give rise to complications, comorbidities, and additional costs. Recent evidence showed positive outcomes of the graft-less sinus lift technique. However, studies comparing the outcome of the grafted and graft-less sinus lift procedures are still lacking. This study aims to compare the implant stability, bone density, and pocket depth outcomes between grafted and graft less sinus lift procedures for implant placement. **Methods:** Ten patients underwent bilateral sinus lift procedures using a lateral window approach (i.e., grafted at one site, and graft less at the contralateral site). Assessments of implant stability, bone density, and pocket depth surrounding the implant were carried out at day 0, 3 months, 6 months, and 1 year post-surgery. **Results:** Results revealed an overall significant increase in implant stability ( $p < 0.0001$ ) and bone density ( $p < 0.0001$ ), and a reduction in pocket depth ( $p < 0.0001$ ) one-year post-surgery. Implant stability and pocket depth assessment were similar between grafted and graft fewer groups ( $p > 0.05$ ). Nevertheless, the grafted group displayed a higher increment of bone density at the buccal ( $p < 0.0001$ ) and mesial ( $p = 0.0068$ ) sites, but not at the distal ( $p = 0.0068$ ) and palatal ( $p = 0.3934$ ) sites, compared to the graft less group. **Conclusion:** These findings demonstrate comparable and promising outcomes for

healing, implant stability, and bone formation in the maxillary sinus with and without grafting or bone substitutes. Essentially, graft less sinus lift is a reliable alternative to the

grafted technique, with potentially reduced risk of complications and comorbidities, and cost-effective.

**ABSTRACT**

## **A Study on the Prevalence of Stress and Its Associated Factors Among Antenatal Mothers in Hospital Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak Sabah**

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**Keywords:** prevalence, stress, factors, antenatal stress, social support

**NMRR Research ID:** 19-2949-50520

**Introduction:** The apparent existence of stress during pregnancy can become overwhelming issues that could be detrimental to maternal and foetal well-being. This study aims to determine the prevalence of stress among antenatal mothers and its associated factors to assess the extent to of this stress trend phenomenon exists. **Methods:** This study was conducted using a quantitative survey in cross-sectional with a descriptive design involving 60 samples collected using convenience sampling in Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinic Sabah Women and Children Hospital (SWACH). The perceived stress scale (PSS-10) was used to measure respondents perceived stress level which has 10 items questions using a Likert scale. The perceived stress level was determined as low, moderate, and severe by the total scoring from PSS-10. Inferential statistics using IBM SPSS 23 was used to determine the relationship of stress with demographic data (age), obstetric variables (parity and gestational age), and support. **Results:** The result has shown that about 68.3% of respondents reported perceived moderate stress levels. Age, parity, and gestational age are found not significant with stress ( $p > 0.05$ ). However, there is a significant relationship between stress and the support system ( $p = 0.036$ ). **Conclusion:** This study concluded the presence of stress during pregnancy. Pregnant women with good social support tend to have low to moderate perceived stress levels. The acknowledgement of the

presence of stress during antenatal and the possible positive effect of social support highlight us to strengthen our social support

and continue to maintain efficient antenatal care in preventing the detrimental effect of stress on maternal and foetal well-being.

**ABSTRACT**

## **Parental Experiences in the Management of Children with Cleft Lip and/or Palate in Tawau Hospital**

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**Keywords:** *cleft lip, cleft palate, Cleft Evaluation Profile, cleft management, oro-cleft community*

**NMRR Research ID:** 18-4016-44337

**Introduction:** Cleft lip and palate (CLP) has a profound psycho-social impact on patients and parents. It is important to assess parental experiences and satisfaction as they play important role in the care of the affected child, especially during the surgical intervention phase. This study assessed the parental experiences towards caring for CLP children, and their level of satisfaction with the treatment received and investigated the relationship between socioeconomic factors and parental satisfaction towards cleft management. **Methods:** The study involved 44 respondents out of 70 parents of CLP children treated in the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Department, Tawau Hospital. A pro forma was designed to assist data collection and Cleft Evaluation Profile (CEP) was used for the assessment. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 27. **Results:** Overall, 100% of respondents were "very satisfied" and "satisfied" with the treatment received. Parents were most satisfied with the face profile (95%). The appearance of teeth and nose were the most dissatisfied features reported at 43% and 16% respectively. The socioeconomic background did not affect the level of parental satisfaction whilst the amount of knowledge about cleft treatment was seen to affect the level of satisfaction among parents significantly ( $p<0.05$ ). **Conclusion:** Our findings showed that parents had generally positive experiences in the management of CLP children. The majority of parents were satisfied with the overall

care and surgical outcome. The difference in CEP ratings showed parents with different amounts of knowledge related to cleft have different satisfaction levels with the surgical

outcome. This is valuable in continuing the service and reaching out more to the oro-cleft community.

**ABSTRACT**

## **Nasolabial Incision: A Natural Line to Facilitate Removal of a Huge Spindle Cell Lipoma of Cheek – A Case Report**

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**Keywords:** *spindle cell lipoma, nasolabial incision, atypical lipomatous tumour*

**NMRR Research ID:** 22-02099-EC6

**Introduction:** Spindle cell lipoma is a distinct entity of lipomatous tumour, that typically arises in the subcutaneous tissue of the posterior neck and shoulder. Lipomas found in the oral and maxillofacial region rarely reach a size larger than 2 cm. Challenging surgical decision-making as in the present case appears in the aesthetic cheek zones which are highly visible and important parts of a person's countenance. The role of natural line in the complete resection of these neoplasms with minimal risk of recurrence and its clinicopathologic characteristics is highlighted. **Case presentation:** A 55-year-old diabetic, hypertensive obese man presented with a huge asymptomatic slow-growing cheek mass compromising facial aesthetics and discomfort in mastication. MRI was suggestive of an atypical lipomatous tumour with suspicion of intramuscular involvement. Gross examination showed a soft multilobulated mass measuring 8.0 mm in maximum dimension with a brownish jelly-like material. The tumour was successfully removed with no post-operative complications. The histopathological and immunohistochemical analyses confirmed its diagnosis. **Discussion:** Due to the lesion being located subcutaneously, a technique via nasolabial incision approach satisfies the need for surgical exposure and facilitates operative performance. The scar was expertly placed and hidden in a naturally appearing skin crease and virtually impossible to see, thus named a "natural line" incision. **Conclusion:**

A wider intraoral incision potentially would pose a danger to the facial nerve and parotid duct. Operations to maintain and improve function are not feasible without incisions and the subsequent formation of scars. Therefore,

a cosmetically pleasing incision should be used. It requires experience, detailed knowledge, and careful planning to achieve the intended improvement of function with a minimal loss of aesthetics.

**ABSTRACT**

## Diagnostic Challenge: A Pericardial Mass in Disguise

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**Keywords:** *pericardium, tuberculous pericarditis, tuberculous pericarditis*

**NMRR Research ID:** 22-01847-W1L

**Introduction:** Pericardial mass is relatively rare and usually caused by malignancy; seldom by inflammatory or infectious diseases. Herein, we report a case of pericardial mass which eventually was treated as tuberculous pericarditis. **Case presentation:** A 53-year-old lady presented with chest pain, progressive dyspnoea, loss of appetite, and weight loss (8 kg) over the past 6 months. Physical examination and laboratory tests (including inflammatory and tumour markers) were unremarkable other than tachycardia and iron deficiency anaemia. Echocardiography showed a mass posterior to the aortic valve and the left atrium, with possible involvement of the pulmonary artery and extracardiac structures. Computerized tomography (CT) and cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMRI) further confirmed the presence of a significant mediastinal mass which is contiguous with the pericardial mass. Bronchoalveolar lavage noted no malignant cells or acid-fast bacilli. Open heart tissue biopsy showed multiple nodules on the pericardium, the largest was 2 x 2 cm. Histopathologic examination of the pericardial nodule revealed chronic granulomatous inflammation with central caseating necrosis. The patient was treated for tuberculous pericarditis and started on anti-tuberculosis therapy (ATT) and prednisolone. After 2 months of intensive phase treatment, the patient has clinically improved with a good appetite and weight increment. **Discussion:** Although rarely reported, tuberculous

pericarditis can present as a pericardial mass where the definitive diagnosis is challenging as the presenting symptoms are non-specific, requiring multiple blood investigations, advanced imaging, and invasive procedure.

**Conclusion:** Empirical treatment for tuberculosis may be initiated when clinical suspicion of tuberculous pericarditis is high as the clinical response to ATT may serve as support for the diagnosis.

**ABSTRACT**

## Torsion of Wandering Spleen

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**Keywords:** *wandering spleen, splenic torsion, splenectomy*

**NMRR Research ID:** 23-00856-RVR

**Introduction:** Absent or abnormal laxity of splenic ligaments may give rise to a rare condition called wandering spleen. This condition can be difficult to diagnose due to its non-specific symptoms and clinical findings which are often missed or the patient presents late with a life-threatening complication. **Case presentation:** We are reporting a case of an 11-year-old girl who presented with worsening left-sided abdominal pain and swelling for 1 week associated with no bowel output. Abdominal examination showed a hard, tender mass at the left lower quadrant. Abdominal radiograph revealed dilated proximal bowel loops with a paucity of distal bowel gas. Ultrasonography was done twice in which the latter showed an enlarged spleen at the left lumbar with a whirlpool sign suggesting splenic torsion. Emergency laparotomy was performed, and a non-viable torsed spleen was identified at the left lumbar. A splenectomy was performed. The patient was recovering well post-operatively and was discharged home after 2 weeks postoperative. **Discussion:** Absent or hyperlaxity of splenic ligaments can cause the spleen to wander and predisposes to splenic torsion along its vascular pedicle. It is difficult to diagnose this condition due to its rarity and it mainly remains asymptomatic. These are the reasons why this condition is often missed or presented late. **Conclusion:** Ideally, splenopexy is the treatment of choice but it depends on splenic viability assessment intraoperatively, if it is non-viable, splenectomy is the best option. In a wandering spleen, a high level of suspicion is required for early diagnosis to intervene before any life-threatening complications ensue.