

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

NUTRITIONAL STATUS AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV RECEIVING ANTIRETROVIRAL MEDICATION AT HOSPITAL SUNGAI BULOH, MALAYSIA

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By

NAZISA HEJAZI

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

October 2009

Dedications

To my Father, The best support in my life

To my mother, The Kindest one

To my Sister, My best friend

Abstract of thesis presented to the senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fufilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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Chairman: Mary Huang Soo Lee, PhD

Faculty: Medicine and Health Sciences

Lack of information on the nutritional status of PLHIV in Malaysia prompted this cross-sectional study of 340 HIV-positive adults receiving antiretroviral medication at Hospital Sungai Buloh in order to determine their nutritional status as well as identify those factors associated with it.

Respondents were selected based on two-stage proportional stratified sampling among all patients receiving HIV treatment at the Infectious Disease Clinic of the Sungai Buloh Hospital. A pretested questionnaire was used to collect information on socioeconomics, and dietary intake using face to face interview. Medical history, health status and antiretroviral (ARV) regimen were obtained from respondents' computerized medical records. Biochemical parameters including lipid profile, hematological and immunological parameters were measured using fasting blood samples. Physical measurements included weight, height waist and hip circumference, body composition and blood pressure. Descriptive statistics, comparative statistical procedures and multiple logistic regression were performed using SPSS version 16.0

Most respondents were men (78.8%), Chinese (63.8%), aged between 20 to 50 years (82.1%), had less than ten years of formal education (61.8%) and were employed (63.5%). All subjects were in the first stage of AIDS. The majority (94.6%) had been taking ARV medications for more than six months.

The prevalence of elevated total cholesterol level (65.8%), LDL-C level (78.4%), low HDL-C level (39.8%), elevated triglycerides level (62.2%), fasting plasma glucose (22.0%) metabolic syndrome (27.9%) according to National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP), diabetes mellitus (10.9%) and hypertension (44.7%) were considerable. Megaloblastic anemia was very high (13.5%) as compared to the prevalence at the start of medication (2.5%). On the other hand, underweight was more prevalent at start of medication. While 36.5% of the respondents had unhealthy waisthip ratio, 85.1% had optimal body composition based on fat and fat free mass. The majority of respondents had insufficient dietary intakes although males had higher mean food intakes. Rice, green leafy vegetables and fresh sea fish were the most frequently consumed food items. Education attainment was higher among Indians while Chinese respondents had higher monthly household incomes and had been on treatment for a longer period. More than half of all ethnic groups had abnormal lipid levels. Wasting, abdominal obesity, metabolic syndrome and diabetes mellitus were more common among Indians. Malays as compared to other ethnic groups were more prone to megloblastic anemia and anemia in the form of reduced HCT. Ethnicity and gender had little influence on pattern of food consumption.

Generally, males had higher socioeconomic status, prevalence of hypertension, metabolic syndrome and diabetes mellitus as compared to females. Apart from HDL-C level, more females had elevated lipid level than males. All types of anemia were more commonly observed in females than males. The female subjects had more weight loss, wasting, underweight as well as overweight/obesity, abdominal obesity and higher percentage of body fat.

Based on the results of multiple logistic regression, high waist circumference and waist hip ratio were the major risk factors for low HDL-C level and high triglycerides (components of metabolic syndrome) while age was a considerable risk factor in the occurrence of hypertension, anemia characterized by low hemoglobin level and also megaloblastic anemia. Body mass index (BMI) at start of ARV medication, energy intake, % energy from carbohydrate and % energy from fat were the risk factors for metabolic syndrome in this study.

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The present study demonstrated that PLHIV receiving ARV medication experience some nutritional abnormalities. Thus, the setting up of supportive and intervention programs should be introduced to prevent and reduce these health and nutritional complications that result both from of the infection as well as the ARV that they are on. Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Sarjana Sains

TARAF PEMAKANAN DI KALANGAN ORANG YANG HIDUP DENGAN HIV YANG SEDANG MENERIMA RAWATAN ANTIRETROVIRAL DI HOSPITAL SUNGAI BULOH, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRAK

Pengetahuan yang terhad tentang taraf pemakanan orang yang hidup dengan HIV di Malaysia membawa kepada kajian keratan rentas ini yang mengkaji 340 orang yang hidup dengan HIV yang menerima rawatan antiretroviral di Hospital Sungai Buloh untuk menentukan taraf pemakanan dan juga faktor-faktor yang berkaitan.

Responden kajian ini dipilih melalui dua tahap pensampelan terstratum berkadar daripada semua orang yang hidup dengan HIV yang menerima rawatan HIV di Klinik Penyakit Berjangkit, Hospital Sungai Buloh. Satu borang soal selidik yang telah dipra-uji digunakan untuk mengumpul maklumat tentang sosioekonomi dan pengambilan diet melalui cara temuramah semuka. Maklumat tentang rekod perubatan yang lampau, taraf kesihatan dan regimen ARV yang digunakan diperoleh melalui sistem rekod perubatan berkomputer. Parameter biokimia merangkumi profil lipid, parameter hematologi dan immunologi diuji dengan menggunakan sampelsampel darah puasa. Penilaian fizikal pula meliputi berat, tinggi, ukuran lilitan pinggang dan pinggul, komposisi badan dan juga tekanan darah. Statistik deskriptif, perbandingan prosedur-prosedur statistik dan regresi logistik berganda diperoleh dengan menggunakan SPSS versi 16.0.

Kebanyakan responden adalah lelaki (78.8%), berbangsa Cina (63.8%), berumur dalam lingkungan 20 hingga 50 tahun (82.1%), menerima pendidikan formal kurang dari sepuluh tahun (61.8%) dan bekerja (63.5%). Semua subjek berada di peringkat pertama AIDS. Majoriti (94.6%) telah menerima rawatan ARV melebihi enam bulan.

Prevalens jumlah kolesterol tinggi (65.8%), tahap LDL-C tinggi (78.4%), tahap HDL-C rendah (39.8%), tahap trigliserida tinggi (62.2%), plasma glukosa puasa tinggi (22.0%), sindrom metabolik (27.9%), diabetes mellitus (10.9%) dan hipertensi (44.7%) adalah banyak. Megaloblastik anemia adalah sangat tinggi (13.5%) jika dibandingkan dengan masa mereka mula-mula menerima rawatan ARV (2.5%). Sebaliknya, kurang berat badan adalah lebih prevalen pada permulaan rawatan ARV. Sementara 36.5% responden mempunyai nisbah pinggang-pinggul yang tidak sihat, sebanyak 85.1% mempunyai komposisi badan yang optimal. Majoriti responden mempunyai kekurangan pengambilan pemakanan walaupun lelaki mempunyai min pengambilan yang lebih tinggi. Nasi, sayuran berdaun hijau dan ikan laut segar merupakan makanan yang diambil paling kerap. Responden India mempunyai tahap

pendidikan yang paling tinggi manakala responden Cina pula mempunyai pendapatan bulanan dan tempoh rawatan yang paling tinggi.

Kebanyakan responden mengikut golongan etnik mempunyai tahap lipid yang tak normal. *Wasting*, obesiti bahagian abdomen, sindrom metabolik dan diabetes mellitus adalah lebih kerap di kalangan etnik India. Selain itu, responden Melayu lebih cenderung kepada megaloblastik anemia dan juga anemia yang mempunyai tahap HCT yang rendah. Kumpulan etnik dan gender didapati mempunyai sedikit pengaruh terhadap pola pengambilan makanan.

Secara amnya, lelaki mempunyai tahap sosioekonomi, prevalens hipertensi, sindrom metabolik dan diabetes mellitus yang lebih tinggi berbanding dengan perempuan. Selain tahap HDL-C, perempuan mempunyai tahap lipid yang lebih tinggi berbanding lelaki. Semua jenis anemia didapati lebih kerap berlaku di kalangan perempuan berbanding lelaki. Golongan perempuan juga mempunyai bilangan yang lebih tinggi mengalami penurunan berat badan, wasting, kurang berat badan dan juga berlebihan berat badan/obesiti, obesiti bahagian abdomen, serta peratusan lemak badan yang lebih tinggi.

Berdasarkan keputusan yang diperoleh melalui regresi logistik berganda, ukuran lilitan pinggang dan nisbah lilitan pinggang dan pinggul yang tinggi merupakan faktor risiko utama untuk tahap HDL-C yang rendah dan juga tahap trigliserida yang tinggi (komponen sindrom metabolik) manakala umur merupakan faktor risiko utama untuk keberlakuan anemia jenis kurang tahap hemoglobin serta megaloblastik anemia.

Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa orang yang hidup dengan HIV yang menerima rawatan ARV mengalami masalah pemakanan.Oleh yang demikian, programprogram yang berbentuk sokongan dan juga intervensi perlu diperkenalkan demi menghalang dan mengurangkan masalah-masalah kesihatan serta pemakanan yang dibawa oleh jangkitan HIV dan rawatan ARV yang digunakan.

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I was so privileged to work with HIV infected people at Hospital Sungai Buloh who willingly participated in this study. Without their patience and cooperation I would not have been able to conduct this research

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I acknowledge my family whose encouragement and support sustained me throughout the duration of my study. To all my friends for your help and support thank you and be assured I will also be here for you. I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 27 October 2009 to conduct the final examination of Nazisa Hejazi on her thesis entitled "Nutritional Status among People Living with HIV Receiving Antiretroviral Medication at Hospital Sungai Buloh, Malaysia" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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Date: 11 FEB 2010

DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledge. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

(Signature)

NAZISA HEJAZI

Date:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

3TC	Lamivudine
ABC	Abacavir
AHOD	Australian HIV Observational Database
AI	Adequate Intake
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APRCCN	Asia-Pacific Regional Centre of the Culturelink Network
ARC	AIDS-Related Complex
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
ARV	Antiretroviral
ATP III	Adult Treatment Panel III
ATV	Atazanavir
AWS	AIDS Wasting Syndrome
AZT/ZDV	Zidovudine
BCM	Body Cell Mass
BIA	Bioelectrical Impedance Analyzer
BMI	Body Mass Index
BP	Blood Pressure
CD4 cell	CD4 Receptor positive T Lymphocyte Cell
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CHOD-PAP	Cholesterol Oxidase-Peroxidase Amino Phenazone Phenol
CRC	Clinical Research Center
СТ	Computed Tomography
CVD	Cardiovascular Disease

d4T	Stavudine
DBP	Diastolic Blood Pressure
ddI	Didanosine di dana Vina
D:A:D	Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs
DEXA	Dual-Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry
DFE	Dietary Folate Equivalent
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DRI	Dietary Reference Intake
EC	Enteric Coated
EDTA	Ethylenediamine Tetraacetic Acid
EFV	Efavirenz
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBC	Full Blood Cell
FFM	Fat Free Mass
FFQ	Food Frequency Questionnaire
FPG	Fasting Plasma Glucose
FPV	Fos-amprenavir
FTC	Emtricitabine
gp	Glycoprotein
GPO-PAP	Glycerol-3-Phosphate Oxidase-Peroxidase Amino Phenazone Phenol
HAART	Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy
НЬ	Hemoglobin
НВР	Hyper Blood Pressure
НСТ	Hematocrit

HDL-C	High Density Lipoproteins Cholesterol
HEI	Healthy Eating Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPLC	High Performance Liquid Chromatography
HR	Hazard Ratio
ID	Infectious Disease
IDUs	Injecting Drug Users
IDV	Indinavir
IOM	Institue of Medicine
ISH	International Society of Hypertension
LAS	Lymphadenopathy Syndrome
LDL-C	Low Density Lipoproteins Cholesterol
LPV/r	Lopinavir + low dose Ritonavir
MANS	Malaysian Adult Nutrition Survay
MCH	Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin
MCHC	Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin Concentration
MCV	Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin volume
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MetS	Metabolic Syndrome
MLTs	Medical Laboratory Technologists
МОН	Ministry of Health
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
МТСТ	Mother-To-Child Transmission
NCCFN	National Coordinating Committee on Food and Nutrition
NCEP	National Cholesterol Education Program

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NE	Niacin Equivalent
NFV	Nelfinavir mesylate
NGO	Non Government Organization
NHMS	National Health and Morbidity Survey
NIH	National Institute of Health
NKF	National Kidney Foundation
NO	Nitric Oxide
NNRTI	Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor
NRTI	Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor
NtRTI	Nucleotide Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor
NVP	Nevirapine
OIs	Opportunistic Infections
OR	Odds Ratio
PEM	Protein-Energy Malnutrition
PI	Protease Inhibitor
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PR	Prevalance Ratio
RBC	Red Blood Cell
RDA	Recommended Dietary Allowance
RE	Retinol Equivalent
REE	Resting Energy Expenditure
RNA	Ribonucleic Acid
RNI	Recommended Nutrient Intake
RR	Relative Risk
RTV, r	Ritonavir

SBP	Systolic Blood Pressure
SD	Standard Deviation
SF	Serum Feritin
SGA	Subjective Global Assessment
SPSS	Statistical Packages For Social Science
SQV	Saquinavir
SST	Serum Separator Tube
START	Selection of Thymidine Analog Regimen Therapy
TAHOD	TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database
тс	Total Cholesterol
TDF	Tenofovir
TEE	Total Energy Expenditure
TG	Triglyceride
TREAT	Therapeutics Research, Education, and AIDS Training
TS	Transferin Saturation
TSC	Technical Subcommittee
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
US	United State
USA	United State of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

VLDL	Very Low Density Lipoprotein
WC	Waist Circumference
WHO	World Health Organization
WHR	Waist-Hip Circumference Ratio

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS or Aids) is a rapidly growing global problem that is accompanied by high morbidity and mortality. It affects all aspects of life at the physical, emotional, psychological, social, economic levels. In general the quality of life of infected persons is compromised. Due to the number of people who have died from this infectious disease, WHO (World Health Organization) and UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) put out data regularly on the number of people infected worldwide. According to their latest report (UNAIDS, 2008a) the number of people living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the world totaled 33 million people as of December 2007 of whom 5 million were in Asia. Since the epidemic began, AIDS has killed more than 25 million people in the world.

HIV, like most infectious diseases, transcends all countries. In Malaysia, the first case of HIV infection was reported in 1986 (MOH Malaysia, 2007) and by December 2007, there were more than 80,000 people living with HIV in Malaysia (UNAIDS, 2008a). UNAIDS and WHO (2006) also described the epidemic in Malaysia as a country with a concentrated epidemic based on a relatively low rate of infection in the general population as measured by a prevalence of less than 0.1% from mandatory testing of antenatal mothers and blood donors in government clinics

in 2005. However, of late the increase in the number of women infected by their spouse/partners has been a cause of concern to the Government.

This infectious disease affects patients' health status including nutritional status through different ways at all stages of the development of AIDS and visa versa (Seumo-Fosso et al., 2004). The HIV damages the immune system, which can then expose an individual to a range of opportunistic infections and some malignancies. These factors can cause infected individuals to experience fever, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite and general feelings of weakness. Weight loss, wasting syndrome and protein-energy malnutrition (PEM), micronutrient deficiency as well as a weaken immune system results from a reduction in nutrients absorption, increase in nutrients excretion, additional demand for nutrients and changes in metabolism. Diminished nutritional status of people living with HIV (PLHIV) leads to the inability to fight off other diseases that further exacerbates malnutrition. In short any immune impairment as a result of HIV and AIDS leads to malnutrition and at the same time malnutrition can also lead to immune impairment, whereby it worsens the effects of the HIV and contributes to more rapid progression to AIDS. Therefore malnutrition can both contribute to and can be a result of the progression of HIV. On the other hand, optimal nutrition can slow down this process.

Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs are the only medication available to inhibit viral replication and reduce morbidity and mortality due to AIDS in the absence of vaccination (WHO, 2000b). Unfortunately access to antiretroviral drugs medication is not available in all countries and therefore nutritional status of HIV infected patients becomes an even more important factor in slowing down the progression of

HIV/AIDS. On the other hand, ART (Antiretroviral Therapy) can cause a variety of side effects and some of them adversely affect the nutritional status of PLHIV (WHO, 2007b). Anemia (Berhane et al., 2004; Moyle et al., 2004; Matsushita et al., 2005), changes in body composition and metabolic complications such as elevated blood lipid level, insulin resistance (Richter et al., 2004; Miller et al., 2004; Hansen et al., 2009) and increased rate of cardiovascular disease (CVD) (Depairon et al., 2001; Sankatsing et al., 2009) are the most commonly quoted adverse nutritional effects on patient receiving highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART).

In Malaysia, significant progresses have been made in the area of prevention and clinical treatment in recent years. The number of people on highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has increased considerably by 35% in 2007 alone (UNAIDS & WHO, 2008) when the Government began to provide ARV drugs free or at reduced charges. The government subsidizes two drugs while patients pay for one (Malaysia UNGASS Report, 2008). Currently all drugs are free for patients on first line regimen, pregnant women, children, government staff, and those infected by blood products. Treatment for opportunistic infections is available and free in all government hospitals.

Due to limitation of information on the nutritional status of PLHIV in Malaysia, a study such as this is needed. Thus, this study aims to determine the nutritional status of PLHIV receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) and therefore provide information for public health programs and policies that can improve patients' general well-being and quality of life.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is a universal crisis which affects the general well-being of people. AIDS is incurable and therefore fatal. It affects all people in the world irrespective of race, age, sex and socio-economic status. It mainly affects men in their productive years; because of their exposure to high risks activities and they in turn can infect their spouses/partners who can then pass it on to children. In order to address this problem, Governments are confronted with many problems. Preventive work is expensive and the results difficult to assess and at the same time treatment places a high financial burden on the health budget.

The situation is also becoming increasingly alarming in other parts of the world, notably South Asia. UNAIDS (2008a) reported that an estimated 80,000 [52,000-120,000] people were living with HIV with 0.5 percent adult prevalence in 2007 in Malaysia, where the most common risk factor for HIV infection was exposure to contaminated drug injecting equipment. In addition, majority of HIV infected cases between 1986-2006 were adults as 35.7% of total percentage of reported HIV cases were in the age groups of 20 to 29, 42.8% in 30 to 39 years old and 15.0% in 40 to 49 years old (MOH Malaysia, 2007).

Because of the importance of nutrition to the progress of AIDS, this area has been investigated by many researchers. Paton and colleagues (2006) suggested that nutritional status may be a major determinant of survival in patients with HIV receiving ARV medication. Malnutrition, various forms of tissue wasting, fat

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accumulation, increased lipid levels, and risk of additional chronic disease have become central issues in health and nutritional care plans of PLHIV.

Good nutrition improves patients' health but does not treat the HIV in them. Medication with antiretroviral treatment is the only means of retarding the progression to AIDS through the suppression of the multiplication of the virus thus enabling the PLHIV to live longer. At the same time medications can also indirectly lead to changes in the nutritional status. WHO (2006a) reported that the major ARTrelated metabolic abnormalities are lactic acidosis, dyslipidaemia, morphological changes (fat accumulation and lipoatrophy), dysregulation of glucose metabolism, and reduced bone mineral density. As the number of individuals on medication increase (now that it is free or highly subsidized by the Malaysian Government), investigation into the nutritional status of these individuals is of urgent need. In fact UNAIDS and WHO (2008) pointed out that with more and more PLHIV going on medication there is an urgent need to explore the side effects of medication and this includes their nutritional status.

With medication as the only available alternative (to early death) to PLHIV, steps must be taken to reduce the side-effects. This therefore must include treating the complications of AIDS as a chronic disease that needs long-term medication therapies. Taking care of the nutritional complications like medication-induced anemia, metabolic abnormalities and CVD events can improve their nutritional status and therefore quality of life. Improved quality of life enables PLHIV to continue working and contribute to the sustenance of their families' directly and the country indirectly benefit from the continued economic contribution of a group of young infected people who otherwise could be sick with the side-effects of medication. This research sought to answer the following question:

- 1. What is the nutritional status (anthropometry, blood profiles etc.) of Malaysians receiving antiretroviral therapy at Hospital Sungai Buloh?
- 2. What are their socio-economic and medical history, health and hematological status?
- 3. What is the ARV regimen they are on?
- 4. Is there any difference in socio-economic, medical history, health status, antiretroviral regimen and nutritional status by genders and ethnic groups?
- 5. What are the health risk factors for metabolic syndrome (MetS) and its components as well as anemia?

1.3 Significance of Study

HIV and nutrition are intimately linked. AIDS is well known for causing severe weight loss known as wasting. On the other hand, poor diet can in turn speed the disease's progress. In addition, some antiretroviral drugs have been linked to abdominal obesity, lipid abnormalities by raising LDL cholesterol, lowering HDL cholesterol, and raising triglyceride levels in the blood. This may result in higher risks of heart disease, stroke and diabetes.

Although the impact of nutrition on PLHIV has been well established in many countries, it has not been reported yet in Malaysia. This study looks at the relationships between HIV and nutrition and can provide baseline information on nutritional status as well nutritional disorders of people living with HIV (PLHIV) receiving ARV so that asymptomatic PLHIV and their caregivers such as physicians, dieticians, nurses and family members can provide suitable nutritional interventions to reduce morbidity and mortality due to AIDS and side effects of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART). Nutrition interventions including education and therapeutic interventions can help PLHIV manage symptoms, reduce susceptibility to opportunistic infections, improve nutritional status, promote response to medical treatment, and improve overall quality of life. Briefly, significance of this study includes the ability to alert the health community on the nutritional status of people living with HIV (PLHIV) receives ART and also to make recommendations that can be put into practice so that complications can be reduced.

The most significant contribution of this study is to the improvement of the quality of life of PLHIV. Knowing their own nutritional status and taking the appropriate action will extend the productive life of PLHIV benefiting both families and country.

1.4 Objectives of Study

1.4.1 General objective

To determine the nutritional status and associated factors among PLHIV receiving antiretroviral medication at Hospital Sungai Buloh, Malaysia.

1.4.2 Specific objectives

1- To determine the nutritional status (anthropometry, lipid and fasting plasma glucose level, diabetes mellitus and metabolic syndrome, hematologic indices and anemia, dietary intake).

2- To determine the socioeconomic status (age, gender, ethnicity, educational level, employment status, monthly household income).

3- To determine the medical history {duration of HIV infection, and those measurements at start of medication including immunological status (CD4 cell count and HIV RNA load), hematological status including red blood cells (RBC), hemoglobin (Hb), hematocrit (HCT), mean corpuscular volume (MCV), mean corpuscular hemoglobin (MCH) and mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration (MCHC), anthropometric status (weight, BMI) and drug abuse status at start of medication}.

4- To determine the health status (stage of AIDS, CD4 cell count and viral RNA load, supplement status and blood pressure) at the time of study.

5- To determine the ARV regimen status (type, line and length of time).

6- To compare health and nutritional status of PLHIV by ethnicity and sex.

7- To determine factors associated with metabolic syndrome and its components.

8- To determine factors associated with anemia (low hemoglobin and megaloblastic).

1.5 Conceptual Model of Nutritional Status

This study aims to determine the nutritional status of people living with HIV (PLHIV) receiving antiretroviral medication at Hospital Sungai Buloh, Malaysia as

main outcome that was influenced by socioeconomic status, medical history, health status and ARV regimen status. Under conceptual model, Figure 1.1 shows the conceptual framework for this study. In this model, the nutritional status of PLHIV (anthropometric status, biochemical status and dietary intake) as dependent variable is influenced by the independent variables related to socioeconomic status (age, gender, ethnicity, educational level, employment status and monthly household income), and medical history (duration of HIV, immunological status at start of medication, hematological status and anthropometric status at start of medication, drug abuse status), health status (stage of AIDS, supplement status, immunological status at the time of study, blood pressure) and ARV regimen (type, line and length of time on ARV).



Figure 1.1. Conceptual Model of Nutritional Status and Associated Factors

The study also compared the all variables according to ethnicity and gender. Furthermore, the identification of the health risk factors related to metabolic syndrome and its components as well as anemia (anemia with low hemoglobin level and megaloblastic anemia) were the last specific objectives in this study.

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