The relationship analysis of compliance consuming iron tablet with incidence of anemia on pregnant mothers in third trimester at the co-endemic areas of Bengkulu City, Indonesia

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Abstract

In developing countries generally, the incidence of anemia in pregnancy is still a major public health problem. This study aimed to analyze the compliance of consuming iron tablets with the incidence of anemia on pregnant mothers in the third trimester at Bengkulu city. This study used cross-sectional design, samples were third trimester pregnant mothers taken by purposive sampling as many as 106 pregnant mothers. Data analysis was carried out by using chi-square and binary logistic regression test. The results of Chi-square test on factors related to compliance, it was obtained that consumption of iron tablets, ANC services, ANC visits, and availability of iron tablets were significantly relationship with the incidence of anemia (p-value <0.05). While the results of binary logistic test stated that the availability of iron tablets was the most dominant influence on the incidence of anemia (p-value=0.023), OR 13.95 (95%CI: 1.438-135.459). It is expected that the local government must pay more attention to plan the need of Iron tablets based on the estimation number of pregnant mothers.

Introduction

Anemia prevalence is still very high throughout the world, estimated by 58% of pregnant mothers in developing countries having anemia, and about 50% of them suffer from iron deficiency anemia.1,2 Anemia is one of the indirect causes of maternal mortality when giving birth to the worst impact for the baby born from a mother who suffer of anemia during her pregnancy will have an impact the obstructed of growth and development.

During 2013 an estimated 90,000 deaths were caused by anemia.3 Maternal mortality was reported as many as 115,000 maternal deaths each year due to iron deficiency anemia and Asia was the second highest mortality due to iron deficiency anemia. Approximately 3.6 million babies die during the neonatal period. More than a third of child deaths were estimated to be due to lack on nutrition intake of maternal during pregnancy.4

During pregnancy there is an increased need for iron in the body needed for enzymatic and metabolic reactions. If iron needs are not met, iron deficiency anemia can occur. In addition, the presence of infectious diseases in pregnancy can also aggravate the condition of pregnant mother, because it can reduce iron absorption. Malaria parasite infection is easy occurring on pregnant mother due to changes in the immune system and increased hormones during pregnancy. Malaria is an infectious disease that affects the health of pregnant mother which can lead to anemia, cerebral malaria, pulmonary edema, kidney failure and can even cause death. Malaria on pregnant mother can cause abortion, premature labor, low birth weight, and fetal death. There were 50% of pregnant mother infected with malaria in addition to have anemia also have low serum Iron levels. Serum Iron reduction indicated that there was a decreasing in iron reserves in the body.5

Iron supplements given early in pregnancy have an impact on increasing levels of hemoglobin and ferritin during pregnancy and increasing iron supply until the puerperium. Recommendation that every pregnant woman for 6 months to consume iron tablets 60 mg and folic acid 400 mg and continue the dose of Iron to 120 mg after giving birth to prevent the occurrence anemia during childbirth.6

The providing standard on iron tablets was integrated in antenatal care services as an effort to prevent maternal death.6 Measuring the compliance of consuming iron tablets is very important, because iron tablets when taken regularly for long periods can be felt the advantages. Many factors inhibit the maternal adherence in consuming iron tablets.7

Iron requirements during pregnancy in malaria endemic areas increased from normal needs, this was because between malaria parasites and pregnancy both require iron.3 Bengkulu Province was the highest malaria endemic area on the Sumatra island with the highest prevalence of malaria 9.3% due to vivax plasmodium infection.8 Based on Bengkulu’s health profile data there was an increase in low birth weight cases from 40 cases (2014) and 81 cases (2015), and it was also obtained that the third reduction in iron tablet coverage was 86.6% (2016). This needs to get the attention of management of maternal and child health programs to see how much the level of compliance of pregnant mother to consume iron tablets regularly and what factors influence the anemia incidence at co-endemic area of Bengkulu City.

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Prevalence of anemia as a public health problem was classified into three categories: severe problems (>40%), moderate (20.0-39.9%), mild (5.0-19.9%) and normal (< 4.9%). Anemia in pregnancy was assessed by hemoglobin levels <11 g/dL in the first and third trimesters, or <10 g/dL in the second trimester. The increasing acceleration of plasma volume which disproportionate to the red blood cells volume occurs on the sixth week of pregnancy and reaches its top on 24th weeks and continues to increase until 37th weeks. Iron deficiency anemia begins with depletion of iron deposits (ferritin) and increased absorption iron that described by increasing iron binding capacity. In a further stage of depletion of iron stores, reduced transferrin saturation, reduced amount of protoporphyrin which is converted to heme, and will be followed by a decrease in serum ferritin levels. Finally, anemia occurs with its characteristic that is low Hb levels. Iron deficiency is a result of long-term iron imbalance so that iron reserves in the form of hemosiderin and iron ferritin are progressively reduced and no longer meet the need for normal iron adequacy. When the prevalence of iron deficiency anemia reaches 20-30% in all age groups and sexes, during pregnancy supplementation is recommended as the main strategy and is considered more effective and efficient to overcome micronutrient deficiencies (especially iron). Compliance in consuming iron tablets is the compliance of pregnant mother in carrying out the advice of health workers to consume iron tablets according to dosage and drinking schedule. The compliance in this study showed on pregnant mothers’ compliance in consuming iron tablets, including the compliance on the number of tablets consumed, how to consume iron tablets and when taking iron tablets. Pregnant mother who are disobeys in consuming iron tablets have a risk of anemia 4,250 times compared to pregnant mother who are compliances in consuming iron tablets.

The standard of ANC service received by pregnant mother is 1OT. Examination of hemoglobin levels and administration of iron tablets is part of ANC services. Completeness of facilities and infrastructure in health facilities should be able to support all prenatal care services needed by pregnant women. Suggestions for ANC visit is minimum 4x during pregnancy are expected to detect anemia in pregnant mother, so that women with Hb levels below normal from the start of the pregnancy visit must have received iron tablets. From 93% who obey consuming iron tablets, only 53% of pregnant mother know the benefits.

### Materials and Methods

The design of this study used cross-sectional design. This study was conducted on seven Public Health Centre form March to July 2018 with the highest number of third trimester pregnant mothers. The population in this study were all pregnant mothers of third trimester in the working area of 7 public health centre namely Ratu

| Table 1. Characteristics of research respondents. |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Variable            | N   | %      |
| Maternal Age             |      |        |
| <20 years       | 4   | 3.8    |
| 20-35 years      | 87  | 82.1   |
| ≥ 35 years       | 15  | 14.2   |
| Gestational age         |      |        |
| ≥ 28 weeks (7 months) | 35  | 33     |
| ≥ 32 weeks (8 months) | 38  | 38     |
| ≥ 36 weeks (9 months) | 33  | 31     |
| Anemia based on pregnancy age |      |        |
| ≥ 28 weeks (7 months) | 22  | 37     |
| ≥ 32 weeks (8 months) | 18  | 31     |
| ≥ 36 weeks (9 months) | 19  | 32     |
| Education            |      |        |
| Had no formal education | 5   | 4.7    |
| Elementary          | 11  | 10.4   |
| Junior high school  | 30  | 28.3   |
| High school         | 40  | 37.7   |
| College             | 20  | 18.9   |
| Number of Children  |      |        |
| New pregnant        | 30  | 28.3   |
| 1 person            | 34  | 32.1   |
| 2-3 people          | 40  | 37.7   |
| 4-5 people          | 2   | 1.9    |
| Health Insurance    |      |        |
| Yes                | 106 | 100    |
| Medical record book |      |        |
| Yes                | 106 | 100    |
| Wormy              |      |        |
| Negative           | 106 | 100    |

| Table 2. Frequency distribution. |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Variable                      | Measure result | Sample Number | % |
| Anemia                      | Anemia      | 59       | 55.7 |
|                            | Not Anemia  | 47       | 44.3 |
| Compliance in consuming Iron tablets | Disobey | 85       | 80.2 |
|                            | Obey        | 21       | 19.8 |
| Knowledge of Anemia and Iron tablets | Less | 86       | 81.1 |
|                            | Good        | 20       | 18.9 |
| Mothers’ attitude in consuming Iron tablets | Less | 64       | 60.4 |
|                            | Good        | 42       | 39.6 |
| ANC Sevice (10 T)               | Below average | 89       | 84   |
|                            | Average     | 17       | 16   |
| ANCVisit                      | Below average | 33       | 31.1 |
|                            | Average     | 73       | 68.9 |
| Counseling from Health Worker | No         | 58       | 54.7 |
|                            | Yes         | 48       | 45.3 |
| Pregnant mother class         | No          | 81       | 76.4 |
|                            | Yes         | 25       | 23.6 |
| Available of Iron tablets     | Insufficient | 93       | 87.7 |
|                            | Sufficient  | 13       | 12.3 |
| Malaria History               | Yes         | 8        | 7.5  |
|                            | No          | 98       | 92.5 |
| Total                        |             | 106      | 100  |
Agung, Sawah Lebar, Beringin Raya, Lingkar Timur, Nusa Indah, Bentiring and Padang Serai Public Health Center. Sampling taken by purposive sampling technique with 106 respondents.

The data collected with questionnaires include data on characteristics of pregnant mothers, compliance consuming the iron tablets, knowledge of iron tablets, attitudes, health worker counseling, maternal classes and availability iron tablets. Data on ANC visit and ANC services using checklist. Measurement of hemoglobin levels, helminthiasis and malaria were done by laboratory examination.

Univariate analysis was used to see the characteristics of pregnant mothers including age, education, number of children, membership of Jamkesmas, ownership of KIA books and wormy status and variables in this study.

The multivariate analysis that used in the study was used multiple logistic regression test to determine the independent variables were the most dominant influence on the dependent variable in the final modeling. This study has been approved by the Research Ethics Committee from Public Health Faculty of Sriwijaya University.

Results
Based on the geographical condition of Bengkulu City, it was obtained that all pregnant mothers in this study were able to easily access the nearest health services, and the most did not work, while the rest worked as household helpers (Table 1).

Most respondents aged between 20-35 years, gestational age ≥32 weeks (8 months), gestational age of anemia was ≥28 weeks (7 months) as many as 22 (37%) people. All respondents had health insurance, medical record book and negative worms.

Based on Table 2, it was obtained as many as 59 people (55.7%) mothers who suffered from anemia, and only 19.8% mothers who obeyed consuming iron tablets. 47.2% mothers had less knowledge about anemia and iron tablets. Most mothers (84%) received ANC services below average (10T).

Based on Table 3, the results of Chi-square test on factors related to compliance, it was obtained that consumption of iron tablets, ANC services, ANC visits, and availability of iron tablets were significantly relationship with the incidence of anemia (p-value <0.05).

Based on Table 4, the most dominant variable influencing the incidence of iron deficiency anemia was the availability of Iron tablets with a value of p = 0.023 and OR 13.995 (95% CI: 1.438 - 135.459), meaning that the third trimester pregnant mothers who were insufficient of Iron tablets availability had chance 14 times more experiencing in anemia compared to third trimester pregnant mothers who had sufficient the Iron tablets.

Discussion
The results of multivariate binary logistic regression test showed that compliance in consuming iron tablets was not the dominant factor to influence the incidence of anemia. The results of the study obtained that almost all subjects (98.9%) consumed iron tablets, but only 27.5% obeyed to consume. Pregnant mothers who weren’t obedient in consuming iron tablets had a risk of suffering from anemia 4,250 times compared to pregnant mother who were obedient in consuming iron tablet.

Table 3. Relationship between independent and dependent variables.

| Variable                  | Yes | Anemia, n (%) | No | p value |
|---------------------------|-----|---------------|----|---------|
| Compliance                |     |               |    |         |
| Disobey                   | 53(62.4) | 32(37.6) | 0.011 |
| Obey                      | 6(28.6)  | 15(71.4) |     |
| Knowledge                 |     |               |    |         |
| Less                      | 50(58.1) | 36(41.9) | 0.415 |
| Good                      | 9(45)    | 11(55)   |     |
| Attitude                  |     |               |    |         |
| Less                      | 40(62.5) | 24(37.5) | 0.121 |
| Good                      | 19(45.2) | 42(54.8) |     |
| ANC Services              |     |               |    |         |
| Below average             | 54(60.7) | 35(39.3) | 0.035 |
| Average                   | 5(29.4)  | 12(70.6) |     |
| ANC Visit                 |     |               |    |         |
| Below average             | 24(72.7) | 9(27.3)  | 0.030 |
| Average                   | 35(47.9) | 38(52.1) |     |
| Counseling                |     |               |    |         |
| No                        | 36(62.1) | 23(47.9) | 0.206 |
| Yes                       | 22(37.9) | 25(52.1) |     |
| Pregnant mother class     |     |               |    |         |
| No                        | 47(58)   | 34(42)   | 0.515 |
| Yes                       | 12(48)   | 13(52)   |     |
| Availability of Iron tablets |     |               |    |         |
| Insufficient              | 58(62.4) | 35(37.6) | 0.001 |
| Sufficient                | 14(9.1)  | 12(92.3) |     |
| Malaria History           |     |               |    |         |
| Yes                       | 3(52)    | 5(10.4)  | 0.462 |
| No                        | 56(57.1) | 42(42.9) |     |

Table 4. Models of Multiple Logistic Regression.

| Variable                  | SE  | OR (95%CI) | p value |
|---------------------------|-----|------------|---------|
| Compliance in Consuming the Iron tablets | 0.682 | 1.397 (0.367 - 5.314) | 0.624 |
| ANC Service               | 0.614 | 3.392 (1.018-11.307) | 0.047 |
| Availability of Iron tablets | 1.160 | 13.954 (1.438 - 135.459) | 0.023 |
| ANC Visits                | 0.501 | 1.881 (0.705-5.018) | 0.207 |
the importance of the benefits of consuming Iron tablets, and improving counseling about the harmful effects of anemia.\textsuperscript{14} Education and information about the importance of Iron tablets need to be done to the maximum when pregnant mother get ANC services. Supervision from cadres or health workers in providing iron tablets to pregnant mother in order to consume regularly was very necessary. So the complication cases and even maternal and baby mortality during pregnancy and childbirth can be reduced, one of them through standard ANC services.

There was a significant relationship between the availability of iron tablets and incidence of anemia with \((p\ value = 0.001) OR = 8.10 \ (95\% CI: 1.26-53.65)\). It showed that pregnant mother who had insufficient iron tablet had an opportunity of 8.10 times for anemia. Multivariate binary logistic regression test results also showed that iron tablet availability was the dominant factor influencing the incidence of anemia on pregnant mothers \((p\ value = 0.023)\). Iron consumption <30 tablets/month caused anemia on pregnant mothers 3 times compared to pregnant mothers by consumption of Iron tablets >30 tablets/month obtained results of pregnant mothers who received/consumed the Iron tablets <30 tablets/month had a chance of 2.286 times to suffer from anemia compared to pregnant mothers who consumed Iron tablets > 30 tablets/month. The health facility that provide the antenatal care is expected to have an estimated need for iron tablets every year so that the supply will be sufficient. The local government began to monitor and evaluate the supply of Iron tablets that should be received by every pregnant mother in an effort to prevent the occurrence of iron deficiency anemia.

There was a significant relationship between ANC visits with the incidence of anemia with \((p\ value = 0.03) PR: 1.51 \ (95\% CI: 1.10-2.08)\) meaning that pregnant mothers who had below average ANC visits had 1.5 times chance to experience anemia compared to groups of pregnant mothers who ANC visited was average. Based on the results of multivariate binary regression logistic tests, it showed that ANC visits became confounding variables between compliance to consume of iron tablets with the incidence of iron deficiency anemia. The compliance increasing of pregnant mothers consuming iron tablets on the second visit was 78.48% and the third visit was 79.13%.\textsuperscript{13} Preventing the occurrence effects of anemia was very important, it is recommended that all pregnant mothers have their ANC visits regularly.

### Conclusions

The conclusion of the study was that there was a significant relationship among maternal compliance consuming the Iron tablets, ANC services, ANC visits and availability of Iron tablets with the incidence of anemia. The most dominant variable affecting the incidence of anemia was the availability of iron tablets.

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