

Melioidosis In Sabah: Epidemiology of Disease And Mortality

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ABSTRACT:

INTRODUCTION: Melioidosis is an environmental disease caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei* bacterium associated with a high case fatality rate. The condition is highly endemic in tropical countries, especially Southeast Asia and Northern Australia.

METHODOLOGY: We performed a retrospective descriptive analysis of confirmed cases and mortality cases of melioidosis collected from the Sabah State Melioidosis Registry from 2017 to 2021, Malaysia. Analysis was conducted to observe the disease trends and patterns.

RESULTS: From 2017 to 2021, Sabah recorded a total of 702 cases with a mean Incidence Rate (IR) of 3.60 /100,000 population. 138 death were recorded from the disease with mean fatality rate of 19.3% throughout the five years. There were a total of 12 out of 27 districts in Sabah reported higher than the state's 3.60 mean Incidence Rate, with the highest mean incidence rate recorded by Tuaran district (12.2), followed by Kuala Penyu (11.3) and Putatan (9.5) districts. 80% of cases recorded were male, and 20% of cases were female. 70% of cases were among patients aged more than 40 years old as compared to only 30% include patients aged less than 40 years old. Out of all mortality cases, 85% of patients died with at least one comorbid, whereas 15% of the cases had no known medical illness

DISCUSSION: Melioidosis is highly endemic, with a high case fatality rate in Sabah, Malaysia. Good control of existing medical comorbid and education among the high-risk population should be conducted. Appropriate policy and guidelines should be delineated according to the districts' demographics in Sabah state.

KEYWORDS: Melioidosis, Sabah