

The Risk Factors for the Incidence of Cervical Cancer in Anutapura Hospital of Palu in the Period of 2015-2018

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Abstract: Background: Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of death after breast cancer in women in developing countries. In 2017, there were 2,8% cases of patients with cervical cancer in Indonesia and 0,8% cases in Central Sulawesi. The medical record data of Anutapura Hospital of Palu shows that the incidence of cervical cancer in 2016-2017 was still the biggest disease that occurred in the obstetrics and gynecology department with a total of 36 cases. Objectives: The objectives of this study were to determine the risk of first marriage age, parity, use of oral contraceptives, education level, smoking and use of sanitary napkins at childbearing age on the incidence of cervical cancer in Anutapura Hospital of Palu. Research Patient and Method: This research used quantitative method with case control approach. There were 62 people taken as the case sample and 62 people as the control with age matching. The sampling was conducted using total sampling method. The data used were secondary data in the form of yearly medical record and primary data in the form of interviews and questionnaires. Results: The data analysis conducted using the Odd Ratio test on the results of research showed the followings; the first marriage age (OR=4,115 and CI=1,944-8,709), parity (OR=3,091 and CI=1,485-6,436), the use of oral contraceptives (OR=3,566 and CI=1,658-7,670), education level (OR=4,875 and CI=2,263-10,503), smoking (OR=4,242 and CI=2,229-14,446), and use of sanitary napkins (OR=5,559 and CI=2,571-12,021). Conclusions: First marriage age, risk of parity, use of oral contraception, education level, smoking and use of sanitary napkins are the risk factors for cervical cancer.

Keywords: Risk Factor, Cervical Cancer, Parity

1. Introduction

Cervical cancer is one type of cancer that often attacks women. The World Health Organization (WHO) states that, every year, thousands of women die from cervical cancer. Cervical cancer attacks the female reproductive organs, precisely in the area of the cervix or the entrance to the uterine area, namely the narrow part of the lower part of the female genitals and uterus [1, 2].

Some factors become the risk factors or indirect effect of the growth of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), so that the cervical precancerous lesions occur, including sexual activity factors

which include the age of first sexual intercourse, multiparity, poor genital hygiene, and smoking [3, 4]. The prevention of cervical cancer can be done by minimizing the existing risk factors by living a healthy lifestyle, taking an early detection by taking *Papanikolaou* Test or pap smears for sexually active women. The earlier the early symptoms of cervical cancer are identified, the easier the treatment given [4, 5].

The number of cancer patients is estimated to continue to increase from year to year with an estimate of reaching 12 million patients by the year 2030. Every year, there are 6.25 million new patients suffering from cancer. For cervical cancer in the world, it is calculated to occur to more than 30

per 100,000 population [6]. Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women, and seventh overall and is the second deadliest cancer in women after breast cancer. About 528,000 new cases of cervical cancer occur and as many as 266,000 die from this disease or accounted for 7.5% of all deaths caused by cancer in the world [1, 7].

In Indonesia, there are more than 15,000 cases of cervical cancer detected every year, and about 8,000 of them dead. Indonesia is a country with the highest number of cervical cancer sufferers in the world. This cancer appears without causing symptoms and is very difficult to detect so that the disease is often diagnosed at the advanced stage [1, 8, 9].

Based on data obtained from the Indonesian Cancer Foundation (YKI), there were 17.8 million people suffered from cancer in 2016 and 21.7 million people in 2017. There was an increase of 3.9% for the number of cancer patients. Every year, no fewer than 15,000 cases of cervical cancer occur in Indonesia. Every day, forty women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and twenty of them die from cervical cancer [1, 10, 11].

Based on the data obtained from the Provincial Department of Health of Central Sulawesi, the incidence of cervical cancer that occurred in Central Sulawesi in 2015 amounted to 183 cases, decreased to 121 cases, and increased to 133 cases in 2017 [12, 3].

Palu City is in the second place for cervical cancer sufferers in Central Sulawesi and the first place is Donggala Regency. Based on the data obtained from the Regional Department of Health of Palu City there were 87 positive cases of cervical cancer in 2015, 140 cases in 2016 and 68 cases in 2017 [13].

The data obtained from the results of a survey conducted at Anutapura Hospital of Palu, the number of cases of cervical cancer fluctuated in 2015 as many as 15 patients, 28 patients in 2016, 8 patients in 2017 and 11 patients in 2018, in the period of January-July. In 2016-2017, cervical cancer was ranked 9th in the list of the top 10 diseases in the

obstetrics, gynecology & family planning polyclinic of Anutapura Hospital Palu.

2. Patients and Method

This research used quantitative research method with an observational analytic approach to determine the risk factors for cervical cancer in patients at the Anutapura Hospital in Palu. This study used a *case control* design.

This research was conducted in February 2019 in Anutapura Hospital in Palu. The population of this study was divided into two, namely the case population of all cervical cancer patients based on the results of diagnosis by the Obstetrics and gynaecology doctor obtained from the medical record of Anutapura Hospital and the control population who were not female cervical cancer patients.

The case samples in the study were all productive age women (19-58 years) who suffered from cervical cancer based on the results of diagnosis by the Obstetrics and gynaecology doctor obtained from the medical record of Anutapura Hospital as many as 62 people. While the control samples were all productive age women (19-58 years) who did not suffer from cervical cancer as many as 64 people. The sampling was conducted using total sampling.

To find out the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable, a computerized data analysis was used to compare the risk factors for cervical cancer between cases and controls, in which the *Odd Ratio*(OR) formula was used.

3. Results

This research was conducted in Anutapura Hospital in February 2019 in order to find out the risk factors of the incidence of cervical cancer in Anutapura Hospital in the period of 2015-2018. The results were as follows:

Table 1. The Risk Factors of the Incidence of Cervical Cancer in Anutapura Hospital.

	Incidence of Cervical Cancer				Total	OR (CI 95%)
	Case		Control			
	n	%	n	%		
First Marriage Age						
High Risk	43	69,4	22	35,5	65	4,115
Low Risk	19	30,6	40	64,5	59	(1,944-8,709)
Parity						
High Risk	38	61,3	21	33,9	59	3,091
Low Risk	24	38,7	41	66,1	65	(1,485-6,436)
Risk of Using Oral Contraceptives						
High Risk	33	53,2	15	46,8	48	3,566
Low Risk	29	46,8	47	75,8	76	(,658-7,670)
Risk of Educational Level						
High Risk	39	62,9	16	25,8	55	4,875
Low Risk	23	37,1	46	74,2	69	(2,263-10,503)
Risk of Smoking						
High Risk	11	17,7	3	4,8	14	4,242
Low Risk	51	82,3	59	95,2	110	(1,121-16,046)
Risk of Using Sanitary Napkins						
High Risk	45	72,6	20	32,3	65	5,559
Low Risk	17	27,4	42	67,7	59	(2,571-12,021)

Source: Primary Data

In Table 1, by using a statistical test, the results obtained show an OR value of 4.115 in CI 95% 1.944-8.709, means that the risk of women with first marriage age of < 20 years old (high risk) experiencing cervical cancer incidence 4.1 times greater than women with first marriage age of ≥ 20 years old (low risk). Since $OR > 1$ and the *lower limit* and *upper limit* higher than 1, the first marriage age becomes a risk factor and has a significant relationship with the incidence of cervical cancer.

Based on the statistical test, the OR value obtained is 3.091 in CI 95% 1.485-6.436, means that the risk of women with parity of > 3 (high risk) experiencing cervical cancer incidence 3.09 times greater than women with parity of ≤ 3 (low risk). Since $OR > 1$ and the *lower limit* and *upper limit* higher than 1, parity becomes a risk factor and has a significant relationship with the incidence of cervical cancer.

Based on the statistical test, the OR value obtained of 3.566 in CI 95% 1.658-7.670, means that the risk of women who have a history of oral contraceptive use of ≥ 5 years (high risk) experiencing cervical cancer incidence 3,6 times greater than women with a history of oral contraceptive use of < 5 years (low risk). Since $OR > 1$ and the *lower limit* and *upper limit* higher than 1, the duration of oral contraceptive use becomes a risk factor and has a significant relationship with the incidence of cervical cancer.

Based on the statistical test, the OR value obtained is 4.875 in CI 95% 2.263-10.503, means that the risk of women who have no school education, elementary, and junior high school level (high risk) experiencing the incidence of cervical cancer 4.87 times greater than women with high school and bachelor level (low risk). Since $OR > 1$ and *lower limit* and *upper limit* higher than 1, the educational level becomes a risk factor and has a significant relationship with the incidence of cervical cancer.

Based on the statistical test, the OR value obtained is 4.242 in CI 95% 1.121-15.046, means the risk of women who have a history of smoking (high risk), experiencing cervical cancer incidence 4.2 times greater than women who have no smoking history (low risk). Since $OR > 1$ and *lower limit* and *upper limit* higher than 1, smoking becomes a risk factor and has a significant relationship with the incidence of cervical cancer.

Based on the statistical test, the OR value obtained is 5.559 in CI 95% 2.571-12.021, means that the risk of women using sanitary napkins ≤ 3 times a day (high risk) experiencing cervical cancer incidence 5.56 times greater than women who use sanitary napkins > 3 times a day (low risk). Since $OR > 1$ and the *lower limit* and *upper limit* higher 1, the use of sanitary napkins becomes a risk factor and has a significant relationship with the incidence of cervical cancer.

4. Discussion

Cervical cancer is the primary cancer of the cervix from metaplastic epithelium in the squamocolumnar junction (SSK), which is the transitional area of the vaginal and

cervical canal mucosa. This disease is the second most common type of cancer suffered by women around the world, usually affecting women aged 35-55 years old [2, 10, 14].

There are several risk factors that can cause cervical cancer including maternal age, parity, the use of oral contraceptives, education level, smoking, and the use of sanitary napkins. Cervical cancer can be prevented by conducting routine check-up, not having intimate relationships with alternating partners, not having intimate relationships during menstruation period and avoiding having sex before marriage or at a very young age, living a healthy lifestyle, such as maintaining the genital hygiene and avoid smoking, and taking routine screening check [11, 15]

Based on table 1, the incidence of cervical cancer in Anutapura Hospital, women who have their first marriage age of < 20 years old (high risk) experiencing cervical cancer incidence 4.1 times greater than women who have their first marriage age of ≥ 20 years old (low risk). Getting married at the age of 20 is considered too young to have sexual relationship and is at risk of cervical cancer 10-12 times greater than those who are married at the age of > 20 years old. Sexual relationship is ideally done after a woman is truly mature. The maturity is not only seen from menstruation but also depends on mucous cells found in the membranes of the inner skin of the body cavity [6, 16].

The incidence of cervical cancer in Anutapura Hospital in women with parity > 3 (high risk) experiencing the incidence of cervical cancer 3.09 times greater than women with parity ≤ 3 (low risk). High parity is one of the risk factors for cervical cancer. Women who have many children are estimated to have infection in their cervix, so the occurrence of infections that are too frequent can cause cervical cancer [14, 12]. During the normal giving birth process, the fetus will pass through the cervix and cause trauma to the cervix, which can trigger the activation of cancer cells. The more often the fetus passes through the cervix, the more often the trauma occurs, and the higher the risk of cervical cancer. Women with parity > 3 are more at risk for getting cervical cancer [7, 17].

The incidence factor of cervical cancer in Anutapura Hospital on the risk of women who have a history of using oral contraceptives of ≥ 5 years (high risk) experiencing cervical cancer incidence 3, 6 times greater than women with a history of using oral contraceptives <5 years (low risk)[11, 18]. The mechanism of using oral contraceptives increases the risk of cervical cancer is still under debate, as it hypothesizes that the thickness of mucus in the cervix due to the use of birth control pills causes cervical cancer. This is because the thickness of the mucus will prolong the presence of a carcinogenic agent in the cervix that is carried through sexual intercourse, including the presence of the HPV virus [2, 19].

The incidence of cervical cancer in Anutapura Hospital in women who have no school education, elementary, and junior high school level (high risk)experiencing the

incidence of cervical cancer 4.87 times greater than women with high school and bachelor level (low risk). A person's level of education can support or influence his/her knowledge [3, 20]. The low level of education is always related to the information and knowledge obtained. The behavior of healthy life is strongly influenced by the education level of the population. Low level of education is one reason for the low level of understanding of the public about health information and healthy lifestyle behaviors [21, 18].

The incidence of cervical cancer in Anutapura Hospital in women who have a history of smoking (high risk), experiencing cervical cancer incidence 4.2 times greater than women who have no smoking history (low risk). Tobacco contains carcinogens which are smoked as cigarettes or chewed [1, 9]. Cigarette smoke produces *polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons heterocyclic amine* that is highly carcinogenic and mutagenic, while when chewed, tobacco produces nitrosamine. Ingredients derived from smoked tobacco are found in the cervical sap of female smokers and can be co-carcinogens for viral infections [20, 6].

The incidence of cervical cancer in Anutapura Hospitals in the risk of women using sanitary napkins ≤ 3 times a day (high risk) experiencing cervical cancer incidence 5.56 times greater than women who use sanitary napkins > 3 times a day (low risk). The frequency of using sanitary napkins as a risk for cervical cancer is more related to maintaining the hygiene of genital organs. Regular use of sanitary napkins can prevent pathogenic bacteria that cause disease [12]. Sanitary napkins are indeed very important things for women when getting menstruation, but without realizing it, this sanitary napkin is one of the causes of female diseases because of the presence of dioxin substances that can cause cancer [3].

5. Conclusions

In this study it was found that the first marriage age, parity, oral contraceptive use, education level, smoking and use of sanitary napkins became the risk factors for cervical cancer with OR values as follows; first marriage age with OR value of 4.1, parity with OR value of 3.1, use of oral contraceptives with OR value of 3.6, education level with OR value of 4.9, smoking with OR value of 4.2 and use of sanitary napkins with OR value of 5.6. It is expected that the government, especially for the Anutapura Hospital, will design a program to prevent the incidence of cervical cancer for women who are at risk and maximize socialization for women of childbearing age who are active in sexual relations and will make more regular check-up such as IVA and Pap smears in an effort to detect the risk of cervical cancer early.

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