ABSTRACT

**Background.** Nutritional status is a reflection of the size of the meet nutrient needs. In Indonesia in the most common and frequently used is the assessment of nutritional status by anthropometry. Infections in the oral cavity one of which is the Early Childhood caries (ECC). According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, ECC is the presence of one or more of dental caries, tooth loss, and or teeth patched (due to caries) in children aged under 72 months.

**Purpose.** to explain the relationship of nutritional status based on anthropometry index to caries in infant.

**Methods.** This study is an observational analytic study with cross sectional approach. A cross-sectional study conducted in 90 infants. Total sampling is used as a sampling technique. Nutritional status using anthropometric indices and the status of dental caries was recorded according to the World Health Organization (WHO) criteria.

**Results.** According Contingency Coefficient, $p = 0.000 < \alpha = 0.05$ then $H_0$ is rejected , which means there is a significant relationship between the nutritional status of the caries in infant.

**Conclusion.** Infant who have good nutritional status, low levels of caries severity, while infants who have poor nutritional status, high caries severity.

**Keywords:** nutritional status; caries; anthropometric index