

ABSTRACT

Malaria is a worldwide health problem, particularly in tropical and subtropical countries, including Indonesia. Malaria results in the increase of mortality rate among children, pregnant women, and fetus (WHO, 1996), and provides effect on the factors of economic growth and working productivity.

In addition to plasmodium, the increase of malaria morbidity rate results also from the factors of environment, social, economy, habit, and lifestyle of the community. Therefore, various sociocultural factors, such as age, sex, occupation, education, economy, faith, knowledge, attitude, and support in the family have a high influence on treatment compliance among malaria patients. Incompliance in the treatment for malaria may cause an increase of morbidity rate in the community, so that the target of Healthy Indonesia in year 2010 may be unattainable.

The objective of this study was to identify various factors related to treatment compliance in malaria patients, such as education, occupation, economy, social support, habit, faith, age, sex, knowledge, and attitude.

This study was carried out from June to August 2003 in the Subdistrict of South Ende, at the working area of Kota Ratu Community Health Center. This study used cross-sectional design with quantitative approach aimed to identify relationship between several factors and treatment compliance among malaria patients. To disclose qualitatively all issues related to values in the family, this study also employed indepth interview. Samples enrolled as informant comprised 44 respondents.

Results of statistical test revealed relationship in several variables. Treatment compliance was found to be related to social support with $p = 0.001$ and $r = 0.539$; age receiving social support from treatment providers with $p = 0.001$ and $r = 0.466$; high knowledge with $p = 0.001$, and $r = 0.456$; and good attitude with $p = 0.001$, and $r = 0.537$.

From those results, it can be concluded that four variables are related to treatment compliance (i.e., social support, age, knowledge, and attitude), while other six variables are not related to treatment compliance (education, occupation, economy, sex, habit, and faith). It is recommended to provide appropriate health promotion on malaria, to provide social support from health care providers and family, and to conduct further studies on this subject.

Keywords: *treatment compliance, malaria*