

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**FINAL YEAR RESEARCH PROJECT – MEDICATION
USE RELATED WITH MEDICAL CONDITION OF
DOWN SYNDROME INDIVIDUAL**

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**Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons.)**

Faculty of Pharmacy

2013

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writing of this thesis has been one of the most significant academic challenges I have ever had to face. Without guidance and the help of several individuals, this thesis would not have been possible.

First and foremost I would like to convey my greatest gratitude to Allah S.W.T, the one who has given me strength, ability and ideas to complete this study. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my supervisor, Madam Maziana Mahamood, for her full encouragement, dedication, ideas and advice for me completing the thesis.

Special dedication goes to both of my parents Noor Afandi bin Ahmad Sarbawi and who have always been supportive to me. I would also like to record my special thanks to the rest of family members and friends for their support and encouragement.

Last but not least, all of other individuals who in one way or another contributed and extended their valuable assistance in the preparation and completion of this study.

Nur Nadia Binti Noor Afandi

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ABSTRACT

Down syndrome is a genetic disorder caused by trisomy of chromosome 21. This abnormality associated with various types of health problems that Down syndrome individual may face throughout their life. By knowing the problems, practitioners such as doctors and pharmacists can give proper treatment to treat their medical condition. In this study, we identify the health-related problems associated with Down syndrome individual and the use of medication. Further, we analyzed the relationship between health condition and medication used in Down syndrome individual. Chi-Square Test has been used to analyzed the data. From the result, most of Down syndrome children exhibit speech and language problems (88.0%) fever, flu and cough (68.5%) and heart problems (25.0%). Hearing problems, sight problems, and hypothyroidism are also common occur in Down syndrome. The percentages of cancer, mental problems and Hepatitis B are extremely low. The most medication given to Down syndrome children was analgesics and antipyretics (56.5%) followed by cough and flu medication (48.9%). Other medications commonly used by Down syndrome children include multivitamin, hormone therapy and respiratory medications. Based on the result, it can be concluded that the use of medication were mainly to treat Down syndrome individual's medical condition.

Keywords: Down syndrome, health problems, medication, Chi-Square Test

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Down syndrome

Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal disorder that occurs from the failure of chromosome 21 to segregate normally during meiosis. In general, each individual with Down syndrome carries an extra copy of chromosome 21 with total 47 chromosomes instead of 46 chromosomes. This extra genetic material causes the delays in development of Down syndrome children.

There are three types of Down syndrome; Trisomy 21, translocation and mosaicism. Trisomy 21, also called non-disjunction is the most common type of Down syndrome where the fetus formed has three copies of chromosome 21 instead of two copies. A rare type called translocation is due to part of chromosome 21 and part of another chromosome has joined to form the extra chromosome. The third type, mosaicism is the mildest which occurs during cell division after fertilization therefore only a portion of the fetus's cells have 47 chromosomes and the rest contain usual 46 chromosomes. In Malaysia, the percentage of free trisomy 21 is 94.6 %, translocation trisomy 0.7% and mosaic trisomy 4.7% (Azman *et al.*, 2007).