

JOURNAL
OF
CLINICAL
AND
HEALTH SCIENCES

JCHS

SUPPLEMENTARY ISSUE

MARCH 2026
VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1 (SUPPLEMENTARY)



Fakulti
Sains Kesihatan



EMERGING TRENDS
IN MEDICAL IMAGING:
FROM PATIENTS TO PIXELS
SYMPOSIUM

Official Journal of
Faculty of Medicine
Universiti Teknologi
MARA



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eISSN-0127-984X

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Knowledge of Nosocomial Infection and Practice of Infection Control among Medical Imaging Students in Three Malaysian Public Universities During Their Clinical Practice

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Introduction: Nosocomial infections (NI) present a critical challenge in healthcare settings, particularly within radiology departments. This cross-sectional study aimed to assess the knowledge and infection control practices among 235 medical imaging students from three Malaysian public universities (UiTM, UniSZA, and UKM) during their clinical placements. **Methods:** Over the course of three months, from April to June 2023, data were gathered from 235 medical imaging students using a cross-sectional survey approach. A structured questionnaire with 45 items that were modified from validated instruments was used in the investigation. **Results:** The findings showed a high degree of infection control practice (mean = 3.87) and knowledge (mean = 3.79). Knowledge and practice showed a weak but statistically significant positive connection ($r = 0.34$, $p = 0.001$). Knowledge gaps were identified in areas like hand hygiene without obvious contamination and the dangers of wearing jewelry or clothing outside of clinical settings, despite the generally good ratings. Lower adherence to procedures such as cleaning X-ray equipment and rubbing hands before providing patient treatment was also noted. According to the study, students' compliance with infection control procedures was also greatly influenced by peer pressure, clinical demonstrations, formal instruction, and staff observation. **Conclusions:** These results highlight how crucial it is to incorporate thorough infection control instruction within the curriculum for medical imaging. To strengthen proper practices and fill in current knowledge gaps, practical, simulation-based learning and ongoing professional development are advised. The results highlight the necessity of focused educational initiatives and practical instruction to enhance infection control practices for aspiring radiologists.

Keywords: nosocomial infection, infection control practice, medical imaging students, clinical practice