

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**STATUS OF INFLAMMATION AMONG NEGRITOS
AND MALAYS WITH METABOLIC SYNDROME**

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To determine metabolic syndrome components with inflammatory biomarker among Negritos compared with Malays.

Method: 600 subjects (150 Negritos, 450 Malays) were recruited in this cross-sectional study. 127 subjects (21 Negritos, 106 Malays) were diagnosed with MS while 473 were non-MS (129 Negritos, 344 Malays). The groups were matched for age and gender. Serum samples were collected for analysis of biomarkers of inflammation [high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP)].

Result: Amongst the Malays and Negritos, MS subjects had higher hsCRP ($p < 0.05$) than their non-MS counterpart. High incidences of low HDL-c levels were observed in Negritos but none was detected among the Malays.

Conclusion: MS is associated with enhanced inflammation, endothelial activation and pro-thrombogenesis. Orang Asli staying in the inlands are predisposed to cardiovascular diseases. The perception of Orang Asli being healthier than the urban people no longer holds. Inherent genetic background may contribute to the increased risk of coronary artery disease.

Keywords: Metabolic syndrome, Negritos, Status inflammation

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TITLE:

Status of Inflammation among Negritos and Malays with Metabolic Syndrome.

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

Orang asli (OA) are the indigenous people and the oldest inhabitants of Peninsular Malaysia. There about 60,000 Orang Asli people, of which majority (60%) still live in rainforest and remaining about 40% Orang Asli live along or near the coast. Each tribe has its own language and culture, and perceives itself as different from others. Linguistically, some of the northern Orang Asli groups speak languages that suggest a historical link with the indigenous peoples in Burma, Thailand and Indo-China.

Officially, there are 18 OA tribes, categorized under three main groups according to their different languages and customs which are Negrito, generally confined to the northern portion of the peninsula, Senoi, residing in the central region and Proto-Malay (or Aboriginal Malay), in the southern region. In Peninsular Malaysia the indigenous people, Orang Asli (OA) comprise 0.5% (150,000) of the population. Senoi tribe representing the largest OA population (54%) followed by the Proto Malays (43%), and the Negrito with the smallest OA population (3%).

Negrito, known to be the earliest OA tribe to arrive in Peninsular Malaysia. The name 'Negrito' suggest, that these people come from Papua New Guinea or East Africa. Physically they have dark-skinned and frizzy hair as compared to other groups of OA which are lighter skinned and have straight hair. The Negritos live in the North and the North East of the Peninsular and mostly live in the jungle. They are the semi-nomadic tribes of the OA. Only a