

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**A STUDY OF
KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE
AND PERCEPTION
ON E-CIGARETTES AMONG
ORAL HEALTH PERSONNEL
IN PERLIS**

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ABSTRACT

Background: E-cigarette use has become a worldwide phenomenon. Despite the fact, little has been published about oral health personnel's knowledge of their use.

Objective: To determine the factors associated with the knowledge, attitude and perception among oral healthcare personnel on e-cigarettes in Perlis. **Materials and**

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted among 164 oral health personnel in Perlis. The respondents were those who were working as dentists and dental therapists at government and private dental clinics in Perlis. Data was collected using validated self-administered questionnaires. Statistical significance was considered at p-value <0.05. **Result:** Majority of the respondents were female (85.4%), aged below 30 (54.3%), working more than five years in service (43.3%) non-smoker (98.8%), had poor knowledge on health-related risks of vaping (65.9%), had more favourable attitude towards vaping (51.2%), and perceived vaping as harmful (71.3%). Factors that were significantly associated with perception towards health-related risks of vaping were occupation (p=0.017), duration of working experience (p=0.025) and attitude (p<0.001). **Conclusion:** Oral health personnel in Perlis perceived vaping as harmful and had more favourable attitude towards vaping. However, the knowledge related to health-related risks of vaping was poor despite being oral health personnel, which reflects the need for more initiatives and syllabus modification during their study to create better awareness and knowledge about e-cigarettes.

Keywords: knowledge, perception, oral health personnel, e-cigarette

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENNDS), commonly referred to as e-cigarettes (World Health Organisation, 2020). The electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) is a battery-operated product designed to deliver nicotine, flavour and other chemicals (Food and Drug Administration (FDA), 2014). It is manufactured in order to resemble the conventional cigarette, but it does not burn tobacco, and instead of the smoke released from a conventional cigarette, the e-cigarette delivers a vapour as a result of inhaling the product found in the cartridge. This product can contain nicotine, just flavours or both. An e-cigarette gives a sensation similar to smoking a cigarette by providing taste and inhaling sensations that are closer to smoking than those provided by the nicotine inhalator (Barbeau, Burda, & Siegel, 2013).

Several countries have reported an increasing prevalence of e-cigarette use. New e-cigarette users in the United States rose from 1.8% (2010) to 13.0% (2013) of the adult population, while existing users rose from 0.3% to 6.8%. In 2014 e-cigarette users and existing users in New Zealand were 13.1% and 0.8% of adults respectively; Although active adult e-cigarette users in the United Kingdom soared from 2.7% to 6.7% in 2010 and 2012. In 2017, the rate of daily use of e-cigarettes was 5.5 per cent, which reflects 2.8 million people in Britain. This figure is significantly higher than 3.7% observed in 2014.

The use or vaping or using e-cigarettes is still relatively recent in Malaysia. In 2011, the Global Adult Tobacco Survey revealed that the prevalence of current users of e-cigarettes and their awareness is 0.8% and 21% respectively. There was another study that reported that the e-cigarette user among Malaysian adults increased to 3.2% in 2016. Male, younger, more educated, and wealthier respondents used e-cigarette more than the others. The same survey also revealed a prevalence of 0.3 per cent in existing e-cigarette use in Indonesia, 0.9 per cent in Qatar and 1.9 per cent in Greece. Malaysian survey 2014 of International Tobacco Control reveals that 62 per cent of smokers were aware of e-cigarettes, 19 per cent had used one, and 14 per cent were