

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**DIABETIC PATIENTS' KNOWLEDGE AND  
UNDERSTANDING OF DIABETIC FOOT AND  
ITS MANAGEMENT**

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study was aimed to assess diabetic patients' knowledge and understanding of diabetic foot and its management among diabetic patients in a government health clinic. Knowledge on diabetic foot and correct foot care practice among diabetic patients is important in order to prevent any diabetic foot complications that can lead to amputation. **Hypothesis:** Generally, diabetic patients that experienced foot problem will have more knowledge compared to diabetic patients that free from diabetic patients. **Conclusion:** Based on this study, it can be concluded that mostly there is no difference between diabetic patients that experienced foot problem and patient that free from foot problem on knowledge on diabetic foot and foot care practice. It same goes when compares between adherence and nonadherence diabetic patients toward medication. There is no difference between these two groups. However, further education on diabetic foot and its complication as well as correct foot care practice need to be optimized health care quality among diabetic patients either have experienced diabetic foot or not.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

Diabetes is one of the major metabolic disorders that is marked by excessive level of blood glucose in the body (Ehud, 2008). Based on the data from third National and Morbidity Survey (2006), the prevalence of diabetes in Malaysia had increased 6.6 percent as compared to second survey in 1996, which is the prevalence was only 8.3 percent. About 60 to 70 percent of diabetic patients will develop some form of neuropathy (National Diabetes Clearinghouse, 2009). The most common type of neuropathy is peripheral neuropathy. It causes pain or loss of sensation in the toes, feet, legs, hands, and arms. However, feet and toes are likely to be affected compared to the other parts of the body (National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse, 2009).

Diabetic patients with peripheral neuropathy should be more responsible to take care of their feet hygiene because peripheral neuropathy patients are prone to have foot-related problems such as ulceration and gangrene. Diabetic foot complications create a significant problem in the Malaysian diabetic population (Malaysian Clinical Practice Guideline, 2004). If diabetic foot problems can be managed, it can save costs and reduce most foot complications and amputation rate among diabetic population in Malaysia (Malaysian Clinical Practice Guideline, 2004).