

Low Hygienic Level Associated With Pathogen Dissemination By Mobile Phones

Thecican , Aimin Aizat, Yehsugi , Thiviya, Umayal

Year 4 Medical Students, Faculty of Medicine and Defence Health, National Defence University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Introduction

In recent decades the usage of mobile phones has increased dramatically due to improvements in technological developments and drop in the mobile phone prices. In the mean time the debate about its negative effect on human's health also being brought parallelly. Some studies shows it has effect on emergence of cancer cell, some shows it causes infertility but non had been so clinically proven as bacterial contamination via these mobile phones. This study can be used as a small picture showing how aware are our fellow Malaysians regarding this bacterial contamination via handphones and whether do they taking any measures to prevent it.



Materials & Methods

We conducted a cross sectional study by distributing questionnaires in several locations around Seremban (Negeri Sembilan), Klang (Selangor), Melaka town (Melaka) and Wangsa Maju (Kuala Lumpur). As a result, we were able to get responses from 100 respondents from various backgrounds, age, race and social status . Questionnaires contains 27 question in total. It is divided into three section which are Section A: Socio-demographic questions, Section B: Usage of mobile phone and Section C: Cleanliness of mobile phone and personal hygiene. Chi Square test was used to assess the association between variables



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Results

How often do you clean your phone ?

Education	NEVER	ONLY WHEN PHONE IS DIRTY	1 TO 2 TIMES A WEEK	DAILY	AFTER EVER USE
Primary education	0	2	3	0	0
Secondary education	3	40	16	0	0
Tertiary education	2	19	15	0	0

Occupation	NEVER	ONLY WHEN PHONE IS DIRTY	1 TO 2 TIMES A WEEK	DAILY	AFTER EVER USE
Unemploy ed	2	10	4	0	0
Employed	2	26	8	0	0
Student	1	23	20	0	0
Housewife	0	2	2	0	0

Age	NEVER	ONLY WHEN PHONE IS DIRTY	1 TO 2 TIMES A WEEK
13-19	1	17	10
20-30	1	19	13
31 and above	3	25	11



- Among the participants, 66% reported that they clean their phone less than once a week, and the majority was generally unaware of the infection risks associated with mobile phone usage.
- Respondents with tertiary education had higher levels of mobile hygiene practices compared to those with primary or secondary education ($p<0.0005$).
- Students had higher levels of mobile phone hygiene compared to unemployed and employed respondents ($p=0.009$).
- The respondents older than 25 years old had lower levels of mobile phone hygiene ($p=0.002$)

Discussion

Based on our study we can infer that there are more people not aware about microbial contamination via handphone than those who does. As a whole, older people are the one who less aware than the younger people .

Conclusion

There are still many not aware about the microbial contamination via mobile phones. This can lead to contamination of many different kind of diseases easily, therefore we should take some steps to improve the awareness among the people . There are various steps can be implemented in order to raise the awareness among the people which some of it are giving education in the school and advertise in the social medias .

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