

**PREVALENCE OF VESTIBULAR DISORDER AMONG OTOLOGY PATIENTS IN EAR,
NOSE AND THROAT (ENT) CLINIC OF UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA
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This cross-sectional study involved reviewing medical records of Otolaryngology patients who had attended Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Clinic of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre (UKMMC) from early November 2010 to the end of January 2011. The study was aimed to establish epidemiological data bank for the prevalence of vestibular disorder among Otolaryngology patients. A sum of 777 medical records of patients aged between 3 months to 87 years old were reviewed in this study. The study sample consisted of 348 males and 429 females from multiracial background (Malay, 62.8%; Chinese, 27.4%; Indian, 6.2%; others, 3.6%). A sub-group of 146 Otolaryngology patients who complained of dizziness were further classified as sub-population of this study. This sub-group consisted of 55 males and 91 females, in whom 47.9% were Malay, 37.7% Chinese, 10.3% Indian and 4.1% others. Only 47 Otolaryngology patients were found to have vestibular disorder. Prevalence of vestibular disorder among Otolaryngology population in ENT Clinic of UKMMC was found to be 6.0% whereas prevalence of this condition among sub-group who had complained of dizziness was 32.2%. Vestibular disorder was found most prevalent among female, middle-age group of whom aged between 40-64 years old and Malay ethnicity. BPPV was the most prevalent type of vestibular disorder among the Otolaryngology patients, followed by Meniere's disease. This study has revealed significant relationship ($p < 0.05$) between vestibular disorder and factors such as age and ethnicity (Malay and Chinese). The Chinese were found significantly more likely to have vestibular disorder as compared to the Malay (OR 2.19 [CI, 1.17- 4.12] $p < 0.05$). However, the relationship between vestibular disorder and ethnicity could be due to sample size effect. Significant relationships were also seen between vestibular disorder and symptoms such as vertigo, nausea and vomiting ($p < 0.05$). On the other hand, no significant relationship ($p > 0.05$) were revealed between vestibular disorder and gender as well as between vestibular disorder and co-morbidities such as cardiovascular disease, vascular disease, metabolic disease, migraine, middle ear disease and others. In summary, prevalence of vestibular disorder in ENT Clinic of UKMMC is comparatively lower than the prevalence value obtained in studies conducted abroad.

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