

ABSTRACT

The internet is a global network that facilitates communication and information sharing, especially in healthcare. 'Internet health' refers to the use of information and communication technology in healthcare, specifically in areas such as medicine and disease information, with a particular focus on nonspecific diarrhea. However, using the internet as a resource for information on treatment and disease for nonspecific diarrhea remains relatively common among the Indonesian population. This study aims to identify the characteristics of individuals who seek information online about treatment and disease for nonspecific diarrhea, as well as the specific types of information they look for.

A descriptive quantitative study with a cross-sectional design was conducted, involving 98 undergraduate and professional students from FK-KMK (Faculty of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing), Dentistry, and Pharmacy. Participants were selected through convenience sampling. Data were collected via an online questionnaire and analyzed descriptively using SPSS software to assess internet usage frequency, preferred platforms, types of information sought, and factors influencing online searches.

Most respondents were female (69.4%), aged 21–23 years (67.4%), and from the Faculty of Pharmacy (53.1%). Regarding education level, 82.7% of respondents held a bachelor's degree. Monthly spending ranged from Rp. 1,000,000 to Rp. 2,000,000 for 54.1% of respondents, while the majority (98%) were single. In terms of health status, 53.1% of respondents described themselves as being in good health (feeling generally healthy and free from illness or discomfort). Most participants reported their last episode of non-specific diarrhea occurred three months ago or longer (40.8%) and medications frequently purchased or consumed for non-specific diarrhea is Loperamide (46.5%). Halodoc (63.3%) and Alodokter (19.3%) were the most visited sites, with respondents frequently searching for causes (22.5%) and symptoms (20.8%) of diseases rather than drug-related information. Reason for online searches included ease of access (mean 3.78, SD = 0.42) and free availability (mean 3.78, SD = 0.49). The lowest score of reason to online searching was prefer consulting healthcare professionals over searching for information online (2.08, SD = 0.97).

Keywords: drug information, cross-sectional survey study, online health information, seeking behavior