

INTISARI

Karies dan *stunting* merupakan dua masalah kesehatan yang paling sering terjadi pada anak-anak. Kedua hal tersebut berkaitan satu sama lain melalui perubahan komposisi saliva, seperti kadar kalsium. Kalsium dalam saliva memiliki peran penting dalam proses demineralisasi dan remineralisasi jaringan keras gigi. Apabila kadar kalsium saliva rendah, risiko terjadinya karies akan meningkat, terutama pada anak dengan kondisi *stunting*. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui perbedaan kadar kalsium saliva pada anak *stunting* dengan karies dan anak tidak *stunting* bebas karies di Kabupaten Bantul.

Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian pendahuluan dengan menggunakan 6 subjek berusia 3–5 tahun yang terdiri dari 3 anak *stunting* dengan karies dan 3 anak tidak *stunting* bebas karies. Pengambilan saliva dilakukan pada pukul 09.00–11.00 WIB dengan cara meludahkan saliva spontan tanpa stimulasi sebanyak 2 ml. Subjek diminta untuk tidak mengonsumsi apapun selama satu jam sebelum pengambilan sampel untuk menghindari kontaminasi makanan. Pengukuran kadar kalsium saliva dilakukan menggunakan uji *Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry* (AAS).

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan kadar kalsium saliva anak *stunting* dengan karies lebih rendah dibandingkan anak tidak *stunting* bebas karies, yaitu $17,359 \pm 11,986$ dan $57,261 \pm 16,039$. Hasil uji *Shapiro-Wilk* menyatakan data terdistribusi normal. Uji *Levene* menyatakan variansi data yang homogen. Uji *T-Test Independent* menunjukkan adanya perbedaan yang signifikan antara kedua kelompok subjek. Kesimpulan yang didapat dari penelitian ini adalah terdapat perbedaan signifikan antara kadar kalsium saliva anak *stunting* dengan karies dan anak tidak *stunting* bebas karies di Kabupaten Bantul.

Kata kunci: *stunting*, karies, kadar kalsium saliva

ABSTRACT

Caries and stunting are two of the most common health problems in children. These two factors are linked through changes in saliva composition, such as calcium levels. Calcium in saliva plays a crucial role in the demineralization and remineralization of hard tooth tissue. Low salivary calcium levels increase the risk of caries, especially in stunted children. This study aimed to determine the difference in salivary calcium levels between stunted children with caries and non-stunted children free of caries in Bantul Regency.

This preliminary study involved six subjects aged 3–5 years: three stunted children with caries and three non-stunted children free of caries. Saliva samples were collected between 9:00–11.00 a.m. western Indonesian Time (WIB) by spontaneously spitting 2 mL of unstimulated saliva. Subjects were asked to refrain from consuming anything for one hour prior to sampling to avoid food contamination. Salivary calcium levels were measured using Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry (AAS).

*The results showed that salivary calcium levels in stunted children with caries were lower than those in non-stunted children without caries, at 17.359 ± 11.986 and 57.261 ± 16.039 , respectively. The Shapiro-Wilk test showed that the data were normally distributed. Levene's test showed homogeneity of variance. The independent *t*-test showed a significant difference between the two groups. The conclusion of this study is that there is a significant difference between salivary calcium levels in stunted children with caries and non-stunted children without caries in Bantul regency.*

Keywords: stunting, caries, salivary calcium levels.