

## INTISARI

*Stunting* merupakan kondisi kekurangan gizi kronis yang dapat memengaruhi fungsi berbagai sistem tubuh, termasuk sekresi saliva. *Saliva* mengandung berbagai protein yang berperan penting dalam pertahanan rongga mulut. Kadar protein total saliva berpotensi dipengaruhi oleh status gizi maupun kondisi karies. Gangguan fungsi kelenjar saliva pada anak *stunting* berpotensi menyebabkan perubahan komposisi saliva, terutama kadar protein total saliva. Kondisi tersebut berpotensi meningkatkan kerentanan anak *stunting* terhadap karies gigi. Penelitian ini bertujuan mengetahui perbedaan kadar protein total saliva antara anak *stunting* dengan karies dan anak tidak *stunting* bebas karies di Kapanewon Imogiri, Kabupaten Bantul.

Penelitian ini menggunakan desain *cross-sectional*. Subjek penelitian ini terdiri atas dua kelompok, yaitu anak *stunting* dengan karies dan anak tidak *stunting* bebas karies. Sampel saliva dikumpulkan menggunakan metode *spitting*. Kadar protein total saliva dianalisis dengan uji *BCA Assay* menggunakan alat spektrofotometer UV-Vis. Selanjutnya, data kadar protein total saliva dibandingkan dengan uji statistik.

Hasil uji *Shapiro-Wilk* menunjukkan bahwa data tidak terdistribusi normal, sedangkan uji *Levene* menunjukkan variansi yang homogen. Uji *Mann Whitney U* menunjukkan bahwa tidak terdapat perbedaan yang signifikan antara kelompok anak *stunting* dengan karies dan anak tidak *stunting* bebas karies, meskipun kadar protein total saliva pada anak *stunting* dengan karies cenderung lebih tinggi dibandingkan dengan anak tidak *stunting* bebas karies.

**Kata kunci:** saliva, protein total, *stunting*, karies, anak

## ABSTRACT

Stunting is a condition of chronic undernutrition that can affect the function of various body systems, including salivary secretion. Saliva contains various proteins that play important roles in oral defense mechanisms of the oral cavity. The total salivary protein levels may be influenced by nutritional status as well as caries conditions. Impaired salivary gland function in stunted children may lead to alterations in salivary composition, particularly in total salivary protein levels. This study aimed to determine the difference in total salivary protein levels between stunted children with caries and non-stunted caries-free children in Kapanewon Imogiri, Bantul.

This research employed a cross-sectional design. The study subjects consisted of two groups: stunted children with caries and non-stunted caries-free children. Saliva samples were collected using the spitting method. Total salivary protein levels were analyzed using the BCA Assay with a UV-Vis spectrophotometer. The total protein data were subsequently compared using statistical tests.

The Shapiro–Wilk test indicated that the data were not normally distributed, while the Levene test showed homogeneous variances. The Mann–Whitney U test revealed no significant difference between stunted children with caries and non-stunted caries-free children, although total salivary protein levels in stunted children with caries tended to be higher than those in non-stunted caries-free children.

**Keywords:** saliva, total protein, stunting, caries, children.