



## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Data of discharge against medical advice at inpatient room of H. Abdul Aziz Marabahan Hospital shows 3.3% increase every year. Patients of discharge against medical advice (DAMA) in 2005-2007 were 109 (7.0%), 177 (9.3%) and 156 (11.6%). The greatest proportion of discharge against medical advice in 2005-2007 were general patients (68.8%, 52.0% and 47.4%) in Kenanga room (56.0%, 61.0% and 59.0%).

**Objective:** To identify the risk factors of the prevalence of discharge against medical advice at inpatient ward of H. Abdul Aziz Marabahan Hospital.

**Method:** The study was observational with case control design. Cases were all inpatient population with discharge against medical advice. Control were all patients that were allowed to leave by doctors at the same period. There were 78 samples of cases and 78 samples of control; so the total subject of the study were 156 samples. Primary data were obtained directly from respondents and 10 hospital internal stakeholders through indepth interview and focus group discussion. Secondary data were obtained from hospital medical records. Data analysis used bivariable (chi square and OR) multivariable (double regression test). Confounding variable was controlled using stratification method (Mantel-Haenszel calculation).

**Result and Discussion:** The result of bivariable analysis showed that risk factor for the prevalence of discharge against medical advice were patients with medical diagnosis > 1 diagnosis 2.02 times (95% CI 1.16-2.87); cost as reason for discharge 1.73 times (95% CI 0.90-2.55) and had ever had discharge 1.79 times (95% CI 0.74-2.40). The result of multivariable analysis showed that factor of history of discharge against medical advice was the most dominant risk at 6.73 times (95% CI 2.47-18.36) for the prevalence of discharge against medical advice. The result of indepth interview and focus group discussion showed that economic factor was the greatest risk factor for the prevalence of discharge against medical advice. The history of discharge against medical advice generally included aspect of patient characteristics and hospital service characteristics. Uncomfortable experience during hospitalization generally became the reason for discharge against medical advice or recurrent discharge against medical advice.

**Conclusion and Suggestion:** Factor of medical diagnosis > 1 brought risk for the prevalence of discharge against medical advice at inpatient ward of H. Abdul Aziz Marabahan Hospital. It was suggested that the hospital identified risk factor for discharge against medical advice early; provided basic specialist doctor service, and observed medical diagnosis on chronic/acute diseases and other diseases with complications using numerous relevant information sources.

**Keywords:** characteristics of patients, characteristics of service, discharge against medical advice (DAMA).