

Current Knowledge on Leptospirosis (2000-2023)

Nurul Hafizah Jeffrey^a, Tengku Idzzan Nadzirah Tengku Idris^{a*}

Structured Abstract

Background: Leptospirosis is a severe public health issue with high fatality rates due to symptoms like renal impairment and pulmonary haemorrhage. It is transmitted through contact with infected animals' urine, contaminated soil, water, or food. In Malaysia, cases increased significantly from 2004 to 2009, especially in rural areas among high-risk occupations like farming. Rodents are the primary transmission source, with a 56% seroprevalence rate in high-risk groups. This study aims to address gaps in understanding leptospirosis in Malaysia by summarizing reported cases, identifying susceptibility factors, discussing treatment effectiveness, and identifying current challenges.

Methods: A comprehensive literature review was conducted to gather reported cases, identifying susceptibility factors, discussing treatment effectiveness, and identifying current challenges. Databases such as PubMed, Science Direct, and Google Scholar were utilized to identify relevant studies.

Results: The study reviews cases, determines susceptibility factors, assesses treatment efficacy, and identifies obstacles, highlighting the significant impact of leptospirosis on rural populations and high-risk occupations.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the review supports evidence-based preventive and management initiatives, advocating for better diagnostic methods and cooperation across professional groups to combat leptospirosis effectively.

Keywords: Leptospirosis, Public Health, Contaminated Soil, Contaminated Water, Contaminated Food.

*Correspondence: tengkuidzzan@uitm.edu.my

^a School of Biology, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam, Malaysia