### Biopsychosocial Determinants of Visual Inspection Acetic-Acid Test Uptake in Sragen, Central Java

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#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Cervical cancer ranks second among the top ten leading causes of death in women in the world, especially in developing countries. Cervical cancer can be cured if detected early. A simple and common method in early detection of cervical cancer is a visual inspection acetatic-acid (VIA) test. This study aimed to analyze the biopsychosocial factors associated with use of VIA test, using health belief model and a path analysis model.

**Subjects and Method:** This was an analytic observational study with a cross-sectional design. The study was carried out in Sragen, Central Java, from October 2017 to May 2018. A sample of 200 women was selected by fixed disease sampling. The dependent variable was utilization of VIA test. The dependent variables were intention, self-efficacy, perceived benefit, perceived barrier, attitude, subjective norm, knowledge, education, perceived susceptibility, perceived seriousness, and number of children. Data on VIA test were obtained from medical record. The other variables were measured by questionnaire and analyzed by path analysis.

**Results:** Use of VIA test was directly and positively affected by intention (b= 3.50; 95% CI= 1.20 to 5.79; p=0.003), perceived benefit (b= 5.21; 95% CI= 1.98 to 8.44; p= 0.002), and number of children (b= 4.23; 95% CI= 1.61 to 6.86; p<0.001). Use of VIA test was directly and negatively affected by perceived barrier (b=-5.98; 95% CI= -8.83 to -3.13; p<0.001). Use of VIA test was indirectly affected by attitude, subjective norm, self-efficacy, knowledge, education, perceived susceptibility, and perceived seriousness.

**Conclusion:** Use of VIA test is directly and positively affected by intention, perceived benefit, and number of children, but negatively affected by perceived barrier.

Keywords: visual inspection acetic-acid test, determinants, biopsychosocial, health belief model

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#### BACKGROUND

One of the most common cancers in women is cervical cancer. It ranks second among the top ten leading causes of death in women all over the world, especially in developing countries. Cervical cancer caused 275,000 deaths per year and more than 85% were diagnosed in women with low economical conditions (Ndejjo et al., 2017; Wiebe et al., 2012). Based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics, the number of female population in Indonesia in 2016 was 128,716,296 (49.75%). While the number of women of reproductive age of 20-49 years were 58,913,907 people (45.77%). Women of reproductive age are at risk of cervical cancer if the reproductive health is not maintained properly. According to data Riskesdas 2013, the number of cervical cancer patients in Indonesia was 98,692 women. Cervical cancer patients are most reported in East Java, Central Java, and West Java in Central Java Province the number of cervical cancer patients is 19,734 cases. In Sragen regency, the number of cases of cervical cancer reached 216 cases in 2016 (Ministry of Health, 2015, 2017; Health Department of Sragen Regency, 2016).

Cervical cancer can be cured if it is detected at an early stage, but more than 70% of patients check their condition at an advanced stage, so patients are late to receive treatment therapy and increase the risk of death (Mahanta et al., 2012).

Considering the increase of death number from cervical cancer each year, the Indonesian Ministry of Health issued a policy related to the early detection program of cervical cancer. One of the most widely used methods of early detection of cervical cancer is the Visual Inspection Acetic Acid test (VIA). VIA method is more widely used than other methods because it has several advantages, including: the process of examination more quickly, easily, and has a fairly high level of accuracy (WHO, 2012; Ministry of Health, 2015). Based on data of Cancer Sub Directorate Directorate of Non Communicable Disease Control (PPTM) Ministry of Health RI from vear 2007 until 2014, the coverage of early detection program of cervical cancer was up to 904,099 people (2.45%) with positive VIA result of 44,654 people (4.94%) and cancer suspect cervix of 1,056 people (1.2 per 1,000 people). The latest data indicate that the coverage of VIA method examination and clinical breast examination (SADANIS) in Indonesia from 2008-2016 was 1,623,913 people (4.34%). The coverage is still very far from the total target of 37.5 million Indonesian women (Kemenkes, 2016). In 2015, the number of women of childbearing age in Central Java Province who have early detection of cervical cancer and breast cancer was 18,954 people (0.30%), with positive VIA result of 1,868 people (9.86%). The scope of detection early detection is also still far from the set target of 10% (Central Java Provincial Health Office, 2015). While in Sragen regency, in 2016 there were 437 women aged 30-50 years (0.33%) who perform early detection of cervical cancer and breast cancer from a total of 130,560 women. From the screening, the results of positive VIA result were 31 people (Sragen Health Office, 2016).

The low participation of women of childbearing age in early detection of cervical cancer using VIA method may be caused by various factors. Some studies mention individual factors and environmental factors greatly affect women's behavior to perform early detection of cervical cancer using VIA method. This is in accordance with the biopsychosocial model of health, in which biological, psychological, and social aspects contribute greatly to one's health status (Sidabutar et al., 2017; Nwobodo, 2015; Murti, 2016a). When it comes to theory, factors that influence a person's healthy lifestyle can be analyzed using behavior change models such as the Health Belief Model (HBM), Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), and the PRECEDE-PROCEED model. The purpose of this study was to analyze the biopsychosocial factors of the use of visual inspection test of acetate acetate in Sragen regency, Central Java, Indonesia, using path analysis.

### SUBJECTS AND METHOD

### 1. Study Design

This was an analytic observational study with a cross sectional design. The study was conducted in Sragen, Central Java, Indonesia, from October 2017 to May 2018.

#### 2. Population and samples

The source population in this study were women of reproductive age in Sragen, Central Java. A sample of 200 women was selected by fixed disease sampling.

#### 3. Study variables

The dependent variable was the use of VIA test. The independent variables were intention, self efficacy, perceived benefit, perceived barrier, attitude, subjective norm, knowledge, education, perceived susceptibility, perceived seriousness, and number of children.

4. Operational definition of variables

VIA test was defined as a method of early detection of cervical cancer by applying acetic acid 3%-5% in the cervix among women reproductive age. The measurement scale was categorical.

Perceived susceptibility was defined as a positive or negative assessment of the risk for suffering from cervical cancer. The data were collected by questionnaire. The measurement scale was continuous.

Percived seriousness was defined as an individual's subjective perception of how severe the physical and social consequences of cervical cancer. The data were collected by questionnaire. The measurement scale was continuous.

Perceived benefit was defined as the confidence that individuals perceive to the benefits of VIA testing as an early detection of cervical cancer. The data were collected by questionnaire. The measurement scale was continuous.

Perceived barrier was defined as a belief about an individual's constraints or barriers to an VIA test. The data were collected by questionnaire. The measurement scale was continuous.

Self efficacy was defined as individual belief/ability to perform early detection of cervical cancer with VIA test. The data were collected by questionnaire. The measurement scale was continuous.

Intention was defined as the desire of the mother to do or not to do the VIA test. The data were collected by questionnaire. The measurement scale was continuous.

Attitude was defined as women response in the form of a positive or negative assessment related to the ease or obstacles to affect the mother in performing the VIA test. The data were collected by questionnaire. The measurement scale was continuous.

Subjective norm was defined as women belief in the perceived support from the society, family, and peer environments that have an influence on women decisions for VIA testing. The data were collected by questionnaire. The measurement scale was continuous.

Maternal education was defined as the process of changing attitudes or behaviors through the teaching and training effort that the mother has done. The data were collected by questionnaire. The measurement scale was categorical.

Maternal knowledge was defined as the information the mother knows about cervical cancer and VIA tests. The data were collected by questionnaire. The measurement scale was continuous.

Number of children was defined as the number of children born by the mother. The data were collected by questionnaire. The measurement scale was continuous.

### 5. Data Analysis

Univariate analysis was conducted to see the frequency distribution and percentage characteristics of the subjects. Bivariate analysis was conducted to study the relationship between use of VIA test and the independent variable using chi-square test and odds ratio (OR) with 95% confidence level (CI). Furthermore, multivariate analysis employed path analysis.

#### 6. Research Ethics

The research ethics included informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality and ethical clearance. The ethical clearance was obtained from the Research Ethics Committee, Dr. Moewardi hospital, Surakarta, Central Java, Indonesia.

#### RESULTS

#### 1. Sample characteristics

As many as 200 women of reproductive age consisting of 50 women with VIA test and 150 women without VIA test, were selected for this study.

Table 1. Sample Characteristics											
Variable	No VIA Test		VIA Test		OR	95% CI	р				
	n=150	%	n=50	%		20	-				
Education						2.32 to					
<senior high="" school<="" td=""><td>50</td><td>94.3</td><td>3</td><td>5.7</td><td>7.83</td><td>26.41</td><td>&lt; 0.001</td></senior>	50	94.3	3	5.7	7.83	26.41	< 0.001				
≥Senior high school	100	68	47	32							
Knowledge						4.54 to	< 0.001				
Low	67	97.16	2	2.9	19.37	82.64					
High	83	3.4	48	36.6							
Number of Children						3.02 to	< 0.001				
≤ 2	85	91.4	8	8.6	6.86	15.62					
> 2	65	60.7	42	39.3							
Perceived						1.4 to					
susceptibility	66	100	0	0	1.59	1.82	< 0.001				
Weak	84	62.7	50	37.3							
Strong											
Perceived seriousness						3.94 to					
Weak	75	94.9	4	5.1	11.5	33.55	< 0.001				
Strong	75	62	46	38							
Subjective norm						16.87 to	< 0.001				
Weak	118	97.5	3	2.5	57.77	197.8					
Strong	32	40.5	47	59.5							
Attitude						21.45 to	< 0.001				
Negative	115	99.1	1	0.9	161	1208.45					
Positive	35	41.7	49	58.3							
Intention						1.80 to					
Weak	111	100	0	0	2.28	2.89	< 0.001				
Strong	39	43.8	50	56.2							
Self-Efficacy						1.68 to					
Low	103	100	0	0	2.06	2.53	< 0.001				
High	47	48.5	50	51.5							
Perceived benefit						13.55 to					
Low	101	99	1	1	101	753.08	< 0.001				
High	49	50	49	50							
Perceived barrier		-		-		<0.01 to					
Low	24	33.3	48	66.7	0.01	0.04	< 0.001				
High	126	98.4	2	1.6							

### Bivariate analyses and the respective odds ratios (Table 1) showed that the VIA uptake increased with higher education attainment, better knowledge, higher parity,

stronger perceived susceptibility, stronger perceived seriousness, stronger subjective norm, positive attitude, stronger intention, higher self efficacy, higher perceived benefit, and lower perceived barrier.

# 2. Multivariate analysis by using path analysis

Figure 1 depicted structural model of path analysis with parameter estimates. Roughly speaking the resulting path diagram supported the Theory of Planned Behavior where VIA uptake was preceded by intention. Likewise, it also supported Health Belief Model in that perceived susceptibility, severity, benefit, barier, and self efficacy, predicted VIA uptake.

Table 2 showed the results of path analysis that the use of VIA was directly and positively associated with intention (b= 3.50; 95% CI= 1.20 to 5.79; p= 0.003), perceived benefit (b= 5.21; 95% CI= 1.98 to 8.44; p=0.002), and number of children (b= 4.23; 95% CI= 1.61 to 6.86; p<0.001). Use of VIA directly and negatively associated with perceived barrier (b= -5.98; 95% CI= -8.83 to -3.13; p<0.001). Intention was affected by attitude (b= 2.04; 95% CI= 0.64 to 3.45; p= 0.004), subjective norm (b= 3.06; 95% CI= 0.89 to 5.22; p= 0.006), and self-efficacy (b=2.47; 95% CI= 1.59 to 3.34; p<0.001).

Perceived benefit was affected by perceived barrier (b=-2.14; 95% CI= -2.87 to -1.41; p<0.001) and knowledge (b= 0.77; 95% CI= 0.07 to 1.47; p=0.031).

Perceived barrier was affected by knowledge (b=1.67; 95% CI= -2.42 to -0.91; p<0.001). Knowledge was affected by education (b= 0.63; 95% CI= -0.01 to 1.27; p= 0.056). Perceived susceptibility was affected by education (b=0.93; 95% CI= 0.27 to 1.59; p= 0.006). Perceived seriousness was affected by education (b= 0.92; 95% CI= 0.24 to 1.59; p= 0.008). Attitude was affected by perceived susceptibility (b= 1.19; 95% CI= -0.11 to 2.50; p= 0.072) and perceived seriousness (b= 1.17; 95% CI= -0.19 to 2.55; p=0.093).



Figure 1. Structural model with estimation

		Indonandant		95% CI		
Dependent Variable		variable	b	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	р
Direct Effect						
VIA test	$\leftarrow$	Intention	3.50	1.20	5.79	0.003
VIA test	$\leftarrow$	Perceived barrier	-5.98	-8.83	-3.13	< 0.001
VIA test	←	Perceived benefit	5.21	1.98	8.44	0.002
VIA test	←	Number of children	4.23	1.61	6.86	< 0.001
Indirect Effect						
Intention	$\leftarrow$	Attitude	2.04	0.64	3.45	0.004
Intention	←	Subjective Norm	3.06	0.89	5.22	0.006
Intention	$\leftarrow$	Self-Efficacy	2.47	1.59	3.34	< 0.001
Perceived Benefit	$\leftarrow$	Perceived Barrier	-2.14	-2.87	-1.41	< 0.001
Perceived Benefit	←	Knowledge	0.77	0.07	1.47	0.031
Perceived Barrier	←	Knowledge	1.67	-2.42	-0.91	< 0.001
Knowledge	←	Education	0.63	-0.01	1.27	0.056
Perceived Susceptibility	←	Education	0.93	0.27	1.59	0.006
Perceived Seriousness	←	Education	0.92	0.24	1.59	0.008
Attitude ←		Perceived	1 10		0.50	0.070
		Susceptibility	1.19	-0.11	2.50	0.0/2
Attitude	÷	Perceived	1 1 7	0.10	0 55	0.000
		Seriousness 1.17	1,1/	-0.19	2.55	0.093

#### Table 2. The result of path analysis

#### DISCUSSION

### 1. The effect of intention on VIA test uptake

The result of analysis showed that intention has an effect on the use of VIA test. Women with strong intention were 3.50 times more likely to conduct VIA test than women with weak intention. The result of this study was in line with a study by Anggraeni et al. (2016), which stated that the intention could affecte arly detection of cervical cancer on women in reproductive age.

### 2. The effect of perceived benefit on VIA test uptake

The result of analysis showed that perceived benefit has an effect on the use of VIA test. Women with high perceived benefit were 5.21 times more likely to conduct VIA test compared to women with low perceived benefit. The result of this study was in line with a study by Wakhidah et al. (2016), which stated that perceived benefit could affect early detection of cervical cancer on women in reproductive age.

### 3. The effect of perceived barrier on VIA test uptake

The result of analysis showed that perceived barrier has an effect on the use of VIA test. Women with high perceived barrier were 5.98 times less likely to conduct VIA test compared to women with low perceived barrier. The result of this study was in line with Wakhidah et al. (2016), which stated that perceived barrier could affect early detection of cervical cancer on women in reproductive age.

### 4. The effect of the number of children on VIA test uptake

The result of analysis showed that the number of children has an effect on the use of VIA test. Women who had larger number of children were 4.23 times more likely to conduct VIA test. The result of this study was in line with a study by Ncube et al. (2015), which stated that the number of children affected the decision to early detection of cervical cancer.

# 5. The effect of self-efficacy on VIA test uptake

The result of analysis showed that selfefficacy has an indirect effect on the use of VIA test. Women with high self-efficacy were 2.47 times less likely to conduct VIA test compared to women with low selfefficacy. The result of this study was in line with a study by Wakhidah et al. (2017), which reported that there was a relationship between self-efficacy and early detection of cervical cancer.

# 6. The effect of attitude on VIA test uptake

The result of analysis showed that attitude has an indirect effect on the use of VIA test. Women with positive attitude were 2.04 times more likely to conduct VIA test compared to womrn with negative attitude. The result of this study was in line with a study by Idowu et al. (2016), which reported that there was a relationship between attitude and early detection of cervical cancer.

# 7. The effect of knowledge on VIA test uptake

The result of analysis showed that knowledge has an indirect effect on the use of VIA test. The result of this study was is consistent with a study by Nurhasanah and Afiyanti (2017), which stated that knowledge was affected early detection of cervical cancer on women in reproductive age.

# 8. The effect of education on VIA test uptake

The result of analysis showed that education has an indirect effect on the use of VIA test. The result of this study was in line with a study by Wardhani et al. (2017) which stated that education was one of the factors affecting early detection of cervical cancer on women in reproductive age.

# 9. The effect of subjective norm on VIA test uptake

The result of analysis showed that subjective norm has an indirect effect on the use of VIA test. Women with strong subjective norms were 3.06 times more likely to conduct VIA test than mothers with weak subjective norms.

The result of this study was in line with a study by Anggraeni et al. (2016), which stated that there was a relationship between subjective norms and early detection of cervical cancer.

#### 10. The effect of perceived susceptibility on VIA test uptake

The result of analysis showed that perceived susceptibility has an indirect effect on the use of VIA test. Women with strong perceived susceptibility were 1.19 times more likely to conduct VIA test than women with weak perceived susceptibility. The result of this study was in line with a study by Wakhidah et al. (2016), which stated that there was a relationship between perceived susceptibility and early detection cervical cancer of on women in reproductive age.

#### 11. The effect of perceived seriousness on VIA test uptake

The result of analysis showed that perceived seriousness has an indirect effect on the use of VIA test. Women with positive perceived seriousness were 1.17 times more likely to conduct VIA test than women with negative perceived seriousness. The result of this study was in line with a study by Wakhidah et al. (2016), which reported that there was a relationship between perceived seriousness and early detection of cervical cancer on women in reproductive age.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

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