



**EARLY DETECTION BEHAVIOR OF CERVICAL CANCER USING VISUAL INSPECTION OF ACETATE (VIA) METHOD**

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**ABSTRACT**

The problem of early detection of cervical cancer using the Visual Inspection of Acetate (VIA) method in the Banda Aceh City Health Office work area is the low percentage of women aged 30-50 years who carry out early detection of cervical cancer using the VIA method. The purpose of this study was to analyze the behavioral factors of women aged 30-50 years who play the most crucial role in carrying out early detection of cervical cancer using the VIA method in the Banda Aceh City Health Office Work Area in 2021. This study is a quantitative study that is an analytical survey using the Case Control research method, a total sample of 360 women aged 30-50 years, namely: 180 Cases and 180 Controls (1: 1) by applying inclusion and exclusion criteria. The results of the multivariate analysis showed that there were factors that played the most crucial role in the behavior of carrying out early detection of cervical cancer using the VIA method in each variable model: Model 1 (predisposing factor) namely awareness P-value = 0.000, Model 2 (supporting factor) namely the availability of information P-value = 0.000, Model 3 (motivating factor) namely support from officers P-value = 0.000. The conclusion in the Final Model is that awareness is the main factor that plays the most crucial role with a P-value of 0.000 (OR: 54.1; 95% CI: 21.8–134.1), meaning that awareness behavior plays a 54 times greater role in women aged 30-50 years in carrying out early detection of cervical cancer using the VIA method in the Banda Aceh City Health Office Work Area in 2021.

Keywords: case control; cervical cancer; early detection behavior; via test method

**How to cite (in APA style)**

Sari, S. M., Abdullah, A., & Maidar, M. (2025). Early Detection Behavior of Cervical Cancer Using Visual Inspection of Acetate (VIA) Method. *Indonesian Journal of Global Health Research*, 7(4), 623-630. <https://doi.org/10.37287/ijghr.v7i4.6384>.

**INTRODUCTION**

Cervical cancer contributes to 12% of all cancer deaths in women and accounts for 85% of the burden on health systems in developing countries. In Indonesia, the incidence of cervical cancer is 23.4 per 100,000 population, with an average mortality rate of 13.9 per 100,000 population (Arbyn et al., 2020). The case detection capability for cervical cancer was only around 604,000 cases in 2020, while the number of deaths reached 342,000 per year and is projected to continue to increase to 500,000 deaths in 2030 worldwide (Liu & Zheng, 2024). Almost all cases of cervical cancer (99%) are associated with high-risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection, a widespread virus transmitted through sexual contact (Okunade, 2020). Cervical cancer control begins with exposure to risk factors and how to avoid them. Early detection of cervical cancer using the Visual Inspection of Acetate (VIA) method is an effective secondary prevention effort to contribute to reducing mortality and morbidity rates associated with early-stage detection of cervical cancer malignancy so that the possibility of healing can be increased (Wahyuni, 2023). According to WHO (World Health Organization) 2018, the priority for cervical cancer screening is for women aged 30-50 years because at that age they are considered to have high risk factors for cervical cancer (Bruni et al., 2022). In Indonesia, the cervical cancer screening program was launched on April 21, 2008, and is regulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia No. 34 of 2015 (Nuranna, 2022).

Factors that influence early detection of cervical cancer using the VIA method include education level, knowledge, behavior, attitude, risk factors, access to information, distance accessibility, health insurance participation, family support, the role of health cadres and the counseling process by health workers and the availability of supporting facilities and infrastructure. Behavioral factors play an essential role in influencing someone to do things that are useful for their health (Eyeberu et al., 2021) Health behavior is influenced by three factors that play a role, namely predisposition/predisposing factors, supporting/enabling factors, and reinforcing/reinforcing factors (Amirah et al., 2024). When behavior plays a role in someone carrying out health actions or activities that they want to be better, then the behavioral factor has maximally influenced someone to understand the best thing in an effort to improve health conditions for themselves and their environment (Marcus & Pekmezi, 2024).

The percentage of early detection of cervical cancer using the VIA method in women aged 30-50 years in Indonesia in 2018 was 7.34% (Thea et al., 2020). In Aceh Province, the percentage of early detection of cervical cancer only reached 2.9%, and Banda Aceh City only reached 1.1% in 2018. Of course, this percentage of early detection is still lacking when compared to Indonesia's overall achievements. The problem of early detection of cervical cancer using the Visual Inspection of Acetate (VIA) method in the Banda Aceh City Health Office's work area is the low percentage of women aged 30-50 years who carry out early detection of cervical cancer using the VIA method. In this regard, the author wants to examine further what factors play the most important role in early detection efforts when viewed from the perspective of behavioral factors of women aged 30-50 years in carrying out early detection of cervical cancer using the VIA method (Reuter, 2022). This study aims to determine the behavior of early detection of cervical cancer using the visual acetate inspection method.

## **METHOD**

This study is a quantitative study with an analytical survey nature using a questionnaire with a case-control research method. The population in this study were all women who had undergone early detection examinations using the VIA test method aged 30-50 years in 7 Integrated Service Units of the Health Centers in the Banda Aceh City Health Office Working Area totaling 226 women (1 Integrated Service Unit of the Health Center as the location for the Validity and Reliability test totaling 30 women and 6 Integrated Service Units of the Health Center as the location of the study totaling 196 women as samples in 2020). The sample was re-screened in the field using purposive sampling according to the inclusion criteria. 180 suitable samples were obtained, of which 13 people had passed the age limit of 50 years, and three people had moved to Aceh Besar. The sample in this study amounted to 360 women aged 30-50 years, namely a total sample of 180 women who had undergone the VIA Test as Cases and 180 women who had not undergone the VIA Test as Controls according to the 1:1 Case Control research method where both samples had received socialization and counseling about the VIA Test.

## **RESULT**

Table 1 shows that the average age of respondents was 39 years, with a time gap of about 4.4 months between receiving information or socialization about the VIA test and the implementation of the examination. Of all respondents, 4 cases were detected positive for VIA, where early treatment using cryotherapy had been carried out to prevent the development of cancer. The majority of respondents had a secondary education level (47.8%) and good psychological conditions (39.2%). In addition, most respondents showed a supportive level of awareness (51.7%), availability of adequate information (60.8%), time that allowed for examination (61.4%), and received family support (55.0%). VIA service

innovation was supported by 60.8% of respondents, while health workers who encouraged and socio-cultural encouragement were recorded at 60.6% and 50.0%, respectively.

Table 1.  
Respondent characteristics

Variables	Mean	Std ( Min-Max)	Categories	f	%
Age	39.1	6.2 ( 30 – 50 )			
Exposure time to VIA Test	4.4	2.3 ( 1 - 9 )			
Education			Basic	40	11.1
			Intermediate	172	47.8
			High	148	41.1
VIA Test			Not Doing	180	50
			Doing	180	50
VIA Case			Negative	176	97.8
			Positive	4	2.2
Knowledge			Not Enough	211	58.6
			Good	149	41.4
Psychology			Not Enough	216	60
			Good	144	40.0
Awareness			Does Not Support	174	48.3
			Support	186	51.7
Availability of Information			Does Not Support	141	39.2
			Support	219	60.8
Time			Does Not Support	139	38.6
			Support	221	61.4
Family Support			Does Not Support	162	45.0
			Support	198	55.0
VIA Innovation			Does Not Support	141	39.2
			Support	219	60.8
Officer Support			Does Not Support	142	39.4
			Support	218	60.6
Socio-cultural			Does Not Support	180	50.0
			Support	180	50.0

Table 2.  
Behavioral factors for early detection of cervical cancer VIA method

Variables	VIA Test				OR	(95% CI)	P Value
	Do not doing		Doing				
	f	%	f	%			
Knowledge							
Not Enough	141	78.3	70	38.9	5.7	(3.6 - 9.0)	0.000
Good	39	21.7	110	61.1			
Psychology							
Not Enough	126	70.0	90	50.0	2.3	(1.5 – 3.6)	0.000
Good	54	30.0	90	50.0			
Awareness							
Does Not Support	149	82.8	25	13.9	29.8	(16.8-52.8)	0.000
Support	31	17.2	155	86.1			
Availability of Information							
Does Not Support	113	62.8	28	15.6	9.2	(5.5 – 15.2)	0.000
Support	67	37.2	152	84.4			
Time							
Does Not Support	86	47.8	53	29.4	2.2	(1.4 – 3.4)	0.000
Support	94	52.2	127	70.6			
Family Support							
Does Not Support	117	65.0	45	25.0	5.6	(3.5 – 8.8)	0.000
Support	63	35.0	135	75.0			
VIA Innovation							

Variables	VIA Test				OR	(95% CI)	P Value
	Do not doing		Doing				
	f	%	f	%			
Does Not Support	74	41.1	67	37.2	1.2	(0.8 – 1.8)	0.000
Support	106	58.9	113	62.8			
Officer Support					4.1	(2.6 – 6.)	0.000
Does Not Support	100	55.6	42	23.3			
Support	80	44.4	138	76.7			
Socio-cultural					1.4	(0.9 – 2.1)	0.000
Does Not Support	97	53.9	83	46.1			
Support	83	46.1	97	53.9			
Education					1.2	(0.6 – 2.4)	0.614
Basic	25	13.9	15	8.3			
Intermediate	100	55.6	72	40.0			
High	55	30.6	93	51.7	2.8	(1.4 – 5.8)	0.005
Age					1.0	(0.9 – 1.0)	0.230

There is a significant relationship between several factors and women's behavior in conducting early detection of cervical cancer through VIA examination in Banda Aceh City. Women with good knowledge, favorable psychological conditions, high awareness, and support from family, information, and time tend to be more active in conducting VIA examinations. Support from health workers, VIA service innovations, and socio-cultural influences have also been shown to increase the likelihood of women conducting early detection. Women with higher education are 2.8 times more likely to conduct VIA tests than those with basic education. In contrast, secondary education and age do not have a significant relationship with early detection behavior. Although the respondents' age is in the cervical cancer-prone range (30–50 years), other psychological and social factors are more dominant in influencing examination decisions. Ignorance, fear, and the assumption that VIA tests are not necessary are the main obstacles. These findings emphasize the importance of comprehensive education and an approach that touches on psychological and social aspects to increase the coverage of VIA examinations as an effort to prevent cervical cancer (Table 2).

Table 3.

Results of the feasibility test of factors that play a role in early detection behavior of cervical cancer using the VIA method

Variables	OR	95%		P-value
		(Confident Interval)		
		Lower	Upper	
Knowledge	6.4	2.7	15.1	0.000
Socio-Cultural	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.000
Psychology	1.1	0.6	2.1	0.754
Awareness	54.1	21.8	134.1	0.000
Availability of Information	10.6	4.4	25.6	0.000
Time Aspect	1.9	0.9	4.5	0.106
Family Support	2.3	0.9	5.1	0.050
VIA Innovation	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.014
Officer Support	5.5	2.3	13.4	0.000

Table 3 shows that of the nine variables of early detection behavior factors, 8 variables are worthy of being included in the model, namely knowledge (P-value: 0.000), socio-cultural (P-value: 0.000), awareness (P-value: 0.000), availability of information (P-value: 0.000), time aspect (P-value: 0.106), family support (P-value: 0.050), VIA innovation (P-value: 0.014) and officer support (P-value: 0.000). While the psychological factor (P-value: 0.308), is not worthy of being included in the model because it is not significant (P-value) > 0.20.

Table 4.

Multivariate Analysis of Linear Regression Test Results with Model 1, Model 2 and Model 3

Variabel	OR	(95% CI)	P-value
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Model 1 (Predisposing Factors)			
Knowledge	5.7	(2.9 – 11.1)	0.000
Awareness	30.0	(15.9 – 56.5)	0.000
Model 2 (Supporting Factors)			
Availability of Information	8.0	(4.6 – 13.9)	0.000
Time Aspect	1.5	(0.9 – 2.5)	0.156
Family support	4.3	(2.5 – 7.1)	0.000
VIA Innovation	0.5	(0.3 – 0.9)	0.027
Model 3 (Push Factors)			
Officer Support	4.1	(2.6 – 6.5)	0.000
Socio-cultural	1.0	(0.7 – 1.6)	0.832

Table 4 shows that in model 1 (predisposing factors), awareness is the main factor originating from within the respondents in the early detection behavior of cervical cancer using the VIA test method, with a P-value of 0.000 (OR: 30.0; 95% CI: 15.9–56.5). In model 2 (supporting factors), the availability of information is the main factor playing a role in supporting the early detection behavior of cervical cancer using the VIA test method, with a P-value of 0.000 (OR: 8.0; 95% CI: 4.6–13.9). Furthermore, in model 3 (driving factors), the support of officers is the main factor playing a role in encouraging the early detection behavior of cervical cancer using the VIA test method, with a P-value of 0.000 (OR: 4.1; 95% CI: 2.6–6.5).

Tabel 5.  
Hasil Uji Regresi Linear Final Model

Variabel	OR	(95% CI)	P-value
Knowledge	6.4	(2.7– 15.1)	0.000
Awareness	54.1	(21.8 –134.1)	0.000
Availability of Information	10.6	(4.4 –25.6)	0.000
Time Aspect	1.9	(0.9 – 4.5)	0.106
Family support	2.3	(0.9 – 4.5)	0.050
VIA Innovation	0.4	(0.2 – 0.8)	0.014
Officer Support	5.5	(2.3 – 13.4)	0.000
Socio-cultural	0.1	(0.0 – 0.4)	0.000

The final linear regression test results showed that of all the variables analyzed, the awareness factor was the primary determinant in influencing early detection behavior of cervical cancer through the VIA test method. With a P-value of 0.000 and an OR of 54.1 (95% CI: 21.8–134.1), it can be concluded that the higher a person's level of awareness, the chance of conducting an VIA examination as an early detection step increases significantly, even up to 54 times compared to individuals with low awareness (Table 5).

## DISCUSSION

Based on univariate analysis, it is known that out of 180 respondents who underwent the VIA test, 4 positive VIA cases (2.2%) were found during 2021. The average age of respondents was 39 years with an average time interval of 4.4 months between exposure to VIA information and undergoing the VIA test. This is illustrated by the results of the study where the description of respondents' answers describing the early detection behavior of the VIA method is as follows; the majority of respondents' education was at the secondary level, namely 172 (47.8%), good knowledge regarding the VIA test was 149 respondents (41.4%), and the good psychological condition of respondents was 144 (39.2%). Respondents' awareness that supported it was 186 (51.7%) with the availability of supporting information being 219 respondents (60.8%).

The time aspect of respondents who supported was 221 (61.4%), and family support was 198 (55.0%). Meanwhile, the VIA innovation that was supported was 219 (60.8%), with the support of officers who encouraged it, namely 218 (60.6%), and socio-cultural encouragement of 180 (50.0%). Women aged 30-50 years who carried out the VIA test method were expected

to exhibit early detection behavior. The purpose of early detection is to find early stage cases so that the possibility of healing can be increased, the discovery of VIA cases will not be known if there is no early detection behavior, namely conducting an VIA test immediately after a woman aged 30-50 years is exposed to information related to the VIA test. Based on this, it is essential to find cases early and very meaningful in determining what actions should be given to a woman in an effort to prevent and reduce morbidity and mortality rates in women, especially women aged 30-50 years, as a result of cervical cancer. Based on univariate analysis, it is known that the good psychological condition of respondents was 144 (39.2%). Women who took the VIA test who had good psychology were 90 women (50.0%), the results of the chi square statistical test obtained a P-value = 0.000 with OR 2.3 indicating a relationship between good female psychology and the behavior of early detection of cervical cancer in women aged 30-50 years in Banda Aceh City, where women who have good psychology are 2.3 times more likely to play a role in early detection behavior compared to women with poor psychology. The process of human psychic life is always followed by three psychological aspects, namely the cognitive aspect, the emotional or feeling aspect, and the aspect of will or interpersonal relationships (Babieva et al., 2019).

The cognitive aspect is related to perception, memory, learning, thinking, and problem solving, and the affective aspect is related to emotions or feelings and motives. At the same time, the cognitive element is associated with a person's behavior, which includes interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships. It can be understood that in the process of human life it is always related to what is thought (cognitive), what is felt (emotional) and what is done (interpersonal relationships). The psychological aspect concerns the mental health, intellectual ability, social, psychomotor, affective, and cognitive conditions of the individual (Buşu, 2020; Kowalczyk & Czubenko, 2023). Based on the description above, the researcher assumes that a woman must have good psychology as an effort to understand her condition and what is really needed for her to stay in a state of good health, especially the reproductive health of a woman. The cognitive aspect is related to perception, memory, learning, thinking, and problem solving, and the affective aspect is related to emotions or feelings and motives. At the same time, the cognitive element is associated with a person's behavior, which includes interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships. It can be understood that in the process of human life it is always related to what is thought (cognitive), what is felt (emotional) and what is done (interpersonal relationships). The psychological aspect concerns the mental health, intellectual ability, social, psychomotor, affective, and cognitive conditions of the individual (Naro et al., 2023; Ortony et al., 2022; Sari et al., 2020). Based on the description above, the researcher assumes that a woman must have good psychology as an effort to understand her condition and what is really needed for her to stay in a state of good health, especially the reproductive health of a woman.

Based on univariate analysis, it is known that the Awareness of respondents who support is 186 (51.7%). Women who do VIA tests who have supportive Awareness are 155 women (86.1%), the results of the chi square statistical test obtained P-value = 0.000 with OR 29.8 indicating a relationship between supportive Awareness and the behavior of early detection of cervical cancer in women aged 30-50 years in Banda Aceh City, where women who have supportive Awareness are 29.8 times more likely to play a role in early detection behavior compared to women who have non-supportive Awareness. Self-awareness is the basis of emotional intelligence, and the ability to monitor emotions from time to time is essential for psychological insight and self-understanding. Someone who has emotional intelligence will try to be aware of their feelings they control them. Stein explains that this self-awareness does not mean that the flow of their feelings carries away someone, so the mood does not prevent them entirely. On the contrary, self-awareness is a state when someone can be aware of the

situation including the emotions that are haunting their mind due to the problems they face so that they can then control them (Carden et al., 2022; Hadi & Gharaibeh, 2023; Li et al., 2021).

Based on the description above, it can be assumed that a woman's self-awareness of her health condition, especially reproductive health, will arise if women understand what benefits will be obtained by the VIA test for her nature as a woman, especially her obligations as a wife who has the mandate always to maintain her reproductive health. As we know, a woman's self-awareness is often not the focus of attention by officers in conveying information related to the VIA test, where the focus is only on the material and the process of information being conveyed but not on efforts to build, touch a woman's conscience to realize how important it is to carry out an VIA test as part of spiritual values that play a role in the presence of good self-awareness naturally possessed by a woman. The role of awareness as a dominant factor needs to be built and attempted in every woman aged 30-50 years by including material that can touch the side of a woman's religious understanding, so that self-awareness can be formed naturally. So that women have a strong desire full of awareness to carry out an VIA test as an early detection effort so that health is maintained, especially reproductive health as a mandate that maintaining reproductive health is also part of worship in the family and religion for a woman that must always be maintained properly.

## **CONCLUSION**

Early detection behavior of cervical cancer through the VIA method among women aged 30–50 years in the Integrated Service Unit of the Banda Aceh City Health Center is greatly influenced by awareness factors (self-awareness), availability of information, and encouragement from health workers. These three factors have been shown to have a significant relationship with the VIA test, with self-awareness being the most dominant factor.

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