

Does Drinking Coffee and Tea Affect to the Hemoglobine Level on Women of Reproductive Age at Tengger ? – A Preliminary Research

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ABSTRACT

Drinking coffee and tea is a habit of the people of Tengger, East Java, Indonesia, including the women. The polyphenol content in coffee and tea, such as caffeine and tannin, is thought to be one of the factors that can inhibit the absorption of iron in the body. Polyphenols can bind to iron ions to produce compounds that are not useful and will be excreted from the body. So the excessive consumption of polyphenols is thought to cause a decrease in hemoglobin levels which indicates anemia. This research was conducted using the cross sectional method and processed using the SPSS application. The result showed that 94% of respondents consumed coffee, 96% consumed tea and 93% consumed coffee and tea every day. In general, the result showed that women of childbearing age with a high frequency of drinking coffee or tea without a mixture had a tendency to have relatively lower hemoglobin levels, compared to those who consumed coffee or tea with a mixture. Meanwhile, data related to the habit of drinking coffee and tea without mixture shows relatively lower hemoglobin levels, compared to drinking coffee and tea with a mixture.

Keywords: Drinking coffee and tea, frequency of drinking coffee and tea, anemia

ABSTRAK

Minum kopi dan teh merupakan kebiasaan masyarakat Tengger, Jawa Timur, Indonesia, termasuk para perempuannya. Kandungan polifenol dalam kopi dan teh, seperti kafein dan tannin, diduga merupakan salah satu faktor yang dapat menghambat penyerapan zat besi dalam tubuh. Polifenol dapat berikatan dengan ion besi menghasilkan senyawa yang tidak berguna dan akan diekskresikan dari tubuh. Sehingga konsumsi polifenol berlebih diduga menyebabkan penurunan kadar hemoglobin yang mengindikasikan kondisi anemia. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan metode cross sectiona dan diolah menggunakan aplikasi SPSS. Hasil penelitian didapatkan bahwa 94% responden mengkonsumsi kopi, 96% mengkonsumsi teh dan 93% mengkonsumsi kopi dan teh setiap harinya. Secara umum didapatkan hasil bahwa perempuan usia subur dengan frekuensi kebiasaan minum kopi atau teh tanpa campuran yang tinggi memiliki kecenderungan kadar hemoglobin yang relatif lebih rendah, dibandingkan dengan mereka yang mengonsumsi kopi atau teh dengan campuran. Sedangkan data terkait dengan kebiasaan minum kopi dan teh tanpa campuran, menunjukkan kadar hemoglobin yang relatif lebih rendah, dibandingkan dengan minum kopi dan teh dengan campuran.

Kata kunci: Minum kopi dan teh, frekuensi minum kopi dan teh, anemia

INTRODUCTION

Anemia is a health problem that often occurs among women in the developing countries (Wieringa et al., 2016). Based on the data provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2019, the global prevalence of anemia in women aged 15-49 years who are not pregnant is 29.9%, while in pregnant women it is 36.5% (WHO, 2021). The group more susceptible to anemia is women than men in all age groups. Anemia is a health problem that contributes to increased mortality and morbidity (Chaparro & Suchdev, 2019).

Anemia is a condition where the lack of function of red blood cells (RBC) causes a lack of ability to carry oxygen, thus causing complications in various organs of the body. Red blood cells contain hemoglobin (Hb) which functions as a binder of oxygen (O₂) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the body. Oxygen is a source of electrons and ATP synthesis from the lungs to body tissue, while CO₂ is

the result of catabolic processes in the tissue from the periphery to the lungs to be exhaled. CO₂ gas can be transported in RBC by Hb through the reaction of the amino groups of the Hb chain and the formation of carbaminohemoglobin. However, most of the CO₂ in circulation is transported as bicarbonate ions (HCO₃⁻) in the CO₂-catalyzed carbonic anhydrase reaction with H₂O, followed by deprotonation of H₂CO₃ in water. (Diederich et al., 2017).

Hemoglobin is the most abundant cytoplasmic protein contained in RBC so that the amount of levels must be maintained. Red blood cells contain oxygen molecules bound to Hb and iron carriers to Hb. According to WHO, anemia is characterized by a hemoglobin level of less than 13 g/dL in men and less than 12 g/dL in women. Conditions like this cause the body's physiological needs not to be met due to a decrease in oxygen delivery to the body's tissues. Even in iron deficiency anemia causes development and brain function is hampered (Chaparro & Suchdev, 2019).

The causes of anemia are multifactorial. In women of childbearing age, anemia can occur due to iron loss through heavy bleeding due to menstruation, genetic disorders, malnutrition, other chronic diseases, and sociodemographics such as education level, occupation, to inadequate availability of nutritious food or wrong eating patterns such as lack of nutritious food intake (Astuti, 2023). Whereas in pregnant women there is an increase in the need for iron for the growth and development of the fetus so that it is susceptible to anemia (Nguyen et al., 2006).

Anemia causes problems in pregnancy, childbirth, lactation and immunity. In pregnancies with anemia, there is a risk of impaired fetal growth, premature birth, low birth weight, and even infant death (Kefiyalew et al., 2014) (Sartika et al., 2021). In several other studies, anemia causes stunting, namely abnormal growth characterized by height below minus two standard deviations. Stunting does not only occur in children, but can also occur in adolescents. The long-term consequences of stunting in adolescents are having short stature, low IQ levels, and even poor reproduction (Wayan et al., 2020).

Anemia can occur if there is a decrease in iron absorption which causes a decrease in hemoglobin levels so that it is unable to carry oxygen to body tissues (Coad et al., 2014). One of the inhibitors of iron absorption by the body is coffee. In Dasa and Abera's research, it is stated that coffee contains phenolic compounds which can reduce iron absorption. In the digestive system, food or drinks that contain phenolic compounds will reduce absorption in the intestine. However, mixing with coffee, such as milk, can maintain iron from being dialyzed (Dasa & Abera, 2022). In another study, it was stated that in the formation of hemoglobin, there is a bond between apoferritin and Fe ions in the digestive tract, and transferrin bonds with Fe ions in the circulatory system. However, polyphenolic compounds in coffee and tea are reported to be binder competitors, where tannins which bind to Fe ions are useless compounds and will be excreted from the body. (Piskin et al., 2022).

Drinking coffee has become a lifestyle and habit of the Tengger people. The Tengger tribe is one of the tribes that has religious tolerance and has strong adherence to carrying out customs, be it social customs or with the religion they adhere to. This causes the social changes that occur in the Tengger community to be not very significant. The Tengger people have a habit of serving daily dishes and at special occasion ceremonies, both related to custom or related to religion, life cycle or social. Drinks served include coffee (Maryani et al., 2021).

Based on a preliminary survey conducted by researchers, 94% of women of childbearing age in the Tengger community have a habit of drinking coffee. Only 6% of women of childbearing age do not have the habit of drinking coffee. This shows that women of childbearing age have a risk of anemia due to the culture of drinking coffee in the Tenggerese Society. Previous research stated that the habit of consuming coffee can reduce serum ferritin levels or iron reserves in the body. If this happens, it can be suspected of causing iron deficiency anemia (Sung et al., 2018) (Agoons et al., 2021). Based on the explanation above, the purpose of this study was to determine the effect of drinking coffee on hemoglobin levels in women of childbearing age in the Tengger community.

METHOD

The method used in this research is descriptive analytics, cross sectional study. The research began with a preliminary survey conducted in July, and data collection during August-September 2023. The study population was women of childbearing age in Wonosari village, Pasuruan. The sample is respondents with the following inclusion criteria: women, aged 15-49 years and willing to be respondents. The sampling technique used is systematic random sampling. Wonosari Village consists of 7 hamlets. Each hamlet is taken at random from the data at the village hall proportionally according to the number of hamlet residents until it reaches the sample size. The instrument used was a questionnaire. The data collection activity was preceded by an explanation, signing of the informed consent and filling out the questionnaire. Furthermore, capillary blood was taken to check hemoglobin levels using the Point Of Care Testing method with the Fora GCHB meter. Primary data sources were obtained from questionnaires and measuring blood levels, while secondary data were data obtained from the village hall. Data analysis was carried out with SPSS 27 software. The ethical test of this research was carried out by the Ethics Commission of Universitas Ciputra Surabaya with No. 072/EC/KEPK-FKUC/VII/2003.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research was conducted on 193 respondents who were women of childbearing age aged 15-49 years in Tengger, East Java, Indonesia. The research results describe the behavior and habits of the Tengger people who are accustomed to consuming coffee and tea in their daily activities and social activities.

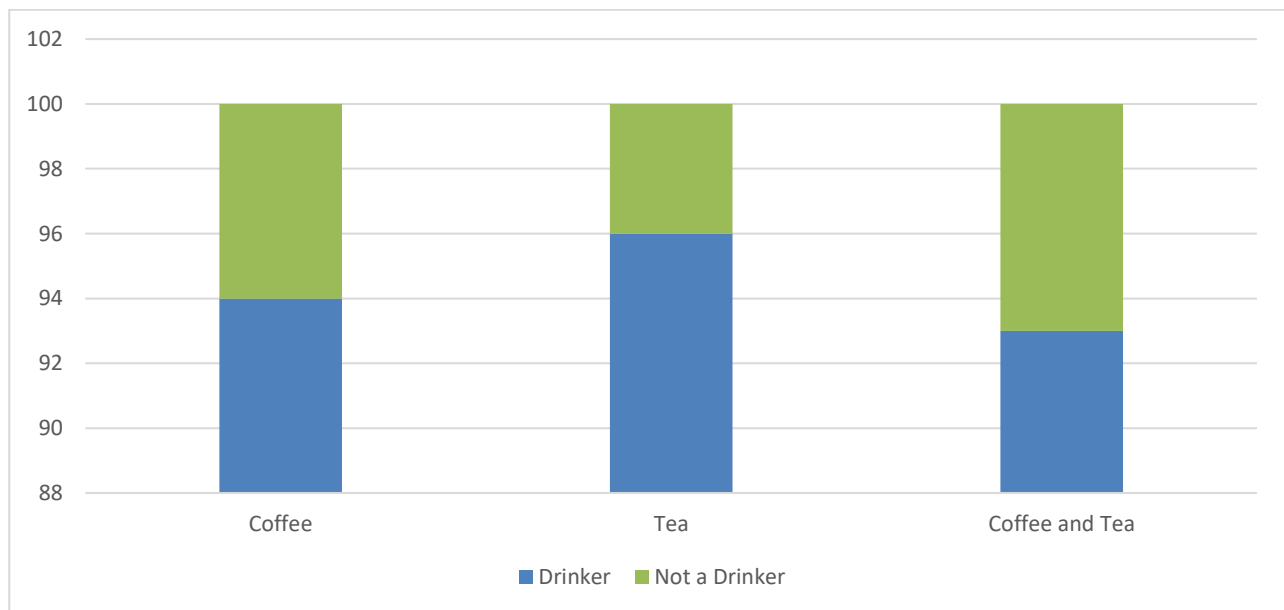


Figure 1. Percentage of coffee, tea or coffee and tea drinkers among women of childbearing age in the Tengger tribe community

Figure 1 shows that a total of 181 respondents (94%) have the habit of drinking coffee every day and 12 respondents (6%) do not have the habit of drinking coffee every day. A total of 185 respondents have the habit of drinking tea every day (96%), while 8 respondents (4%) do not have the habit of drinking tea every day. A very significant number was also found in the percentage of

respondents who had the habit of drinking coffee and tea every day, namely 179 respondents (93%) compared to 14 respondents who were not used to drinking coffee and tea every day (7%).

The results of this research are in line with the results of research previously conducted by Maryani, et al, which reported the habits and traditions of the Tengger tribe community for serving coffee dishes in daily activities, traditional ceremonies, religious ceremonies, or social activities (Maryani et al., 2021). Likewise with the habit of drinking tea is every day. Tea is one of the drinks that is often consumed by people in Indonesia in general and in East Java in particular. The habit of drinking tea has become a lifestyle and tradition that is deeply rooted in Indonesia. Drinking tea is often done in the morning before activities, in the afternoon when gathering with family, or as a treat for guests and as an accompaniment to snacks, even the habit of drinking tea along with meals is often done by people in Indonesia, especially East Java (Mariani D. Y. & Rejamardika Y. N., 2013; Waani Andreas et al., 2014).

Furthermore, the respondents can be classified into 2 categories, namely respondents who had the habit of drinking pure coffee without mixtures and respondents who had the habit of drinking coffee with other additives such as milk, creamer, ginger, herbs, lemongrass, cinnamon, etc.

Tabel 1.
Average hemoglobin levels based on habit and frequency of drinking coffee

Intensitas	Mixture	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
2 times	Unmix	14.088	.7511	8
	Mix	15.654	2.2859	28
	Total	15.306	2.1401	36
More than 3 times	Unmix	14.286	1.2889	71
	Mix	14.400	1.5657	74
	Total	14.344	1.4330	145
Total	Unmix	14.266	1.2430	79
	Mix	14.744	1.8668	102
	Total	14.535	1.6375	181

The research results shown in Table 1 describes that among the 181 respondents who had the habit of drinking coffee every day, there were 36 respondents who drank coffee twice a day with or without a mixture of other ingredients. This respondents had a mean hemoglobin (Hb) level of 15.306 ± 2.1401 g/dL. While the 8 Respondents who drank coffee twice a day without a mixture had an average Hb level of 14.088 ± 0.7511 g/dL. Furthermore the 28 respondents who drank coffee twice a day mixed with other ingredients had an average Hb level of 15.654 ± 2.2859 g/dL. A total of 145 respondents who drank coffee more than three times a day with or without a mixture of other ingredients had a mean Hb level of $14,344 \pm 1.4330$ g/dL, 71 of them drank coffee without a mixture of other ingredients with a mean Hb level of $14,286 \pm 1.2889$ g/dL and 74 respondents who drank coffee mixed with other ingredients had an average Hb level of 14.400 ± 1.5657 g/dL.

The Table 1 shows that respondents who have the habit of drinking unmixed coffee twice a day have lower Hb levels compared to those whose frequency is 3x, namely from 14,088 to 14,286 g/dL. Meanwhile, respondents who had the habit of drinking coffee mixed twice a day had higher HB levels compared to those whose frequency was 3x, namely from 15,654 to 14,400 g/dL. Even though hemoglobin levels are still above the minimum hemoglobin limit for women of childbearing age, respondents who rarely drink unmixed coffee a day have lower Hb levels than respondents who rarely drink mixed coffee, who have high Hb levels.

This condition is known as Hemochromatosis, which means that the iron level in the body is very high (Maduratna et al., 2022). Iron that accumulates in the body's organs will trigger diseases such as heart failure. This study shows that the frequency of drinking coffee without a mixture and with a mixture has a different impact on Hb levels, even though it is still above the standard, it will

have an impact on decreasing the delivery of oxygen to the body's tissues, thus making the exchange of O₂ and CO₂ between tissues and blood unbalanced. (Sundari et al., 2021)

Tabel 2.
Average hemoglobin levels based on habit and frequency of drinking tea

	Mixture	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
1 time	Unmix	11.333	1.3577	3
	Total	11.333	1.3577	3
2 times	Unmix	14.067	.2309	3
	Mix	15.654	1.7927	24
	Total	15.478	1.7623	27
More than 3 times	Unmix	13.847	1.2926	55
	Mix	14.686	1.5504	101
	Total	14.390	1.5148	156
Total	Unmix	13.734	1.3683	61
	Mix	14.872	1.6374	125
	Total	14.499	1.6405	186

The habit and frequency of drinking tea for the Tengger people in this study can be observed in the Table 2. A total of 186 respondents had a habit of drinking tea every day. The majority of respondents (156 people) drank tea ≥ 3 ×/day with or without a mixture, had a lower average Hb level ($14,390 \pm 1.5148$ g/dL) than respondents who only drank tea twice a day with or without a mixture ($15,478 \pm 1.7623$). Respondents who drank tea twice a day without mixtures had lower Hb levels (14.067 ± 0.2309) than those with mixtures (15.654 ± 1.7927), as well as respondents who drank tea ≥ 3 ×/day without mixtures Lower Hb (13.847 ± 1.2926 g/dL) than that with the mixture (14.686 ± 1.5504).

Tabel 3. Average hemoglobin levels based on habits and frequency of drinking both coffee and tea

	Mixture	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Less than 4 times	Unmix	12.90000	.	1
	Mix	15.27600	2.253568	25
	Total	15.18462	2.256669	26
More than equals 4 times	Unmix	14.02857	1.171216	28
	Mix	14.49762	1.538127	126
	Total	14.41234	1.485896	154
Total	Unmix	13.98966	1.169049	29
	Mix	14.62649	1.693623	151
	Total	14.52389	1.634795	180

A total of 180 respondents who drank coffee and tea were grouped into 2 groups, namely 26 respondents who drank coffee and tea ≤ 4 ×/day and as many as 154 respondents who drank > 4 ×/day (Table 3). The average Hb level of respondents who drank coffee and tea was 14.52389 ± 1.634795 g/dL. The average Hb level in respondents who drank coffee > 4 ×/day without mixture was lower (14.02857 ± 1.171216 g/dL) than those who drank coffee ≤ 4 ×/day without mixture (12.9 g/dL).

Table 3 shows that respondents who have the habit of rarely drinking coffee and unmixed tea a day have higher Hb levels compared to those who often drink coffee and tea, namely from 12,900 to 14,028 g/dL. However, respondents who had the habit of rarely drinking mixed coffee and tea a day had lower HB levels compared to those who frequently, namely from 15,276 to 14,497 g/dL.

This shows that rarely drinking pure coffee and tea without a mixture will result in lower HB levels than when you often drink coffee and tea without a mixture.

The average hemoglobin levels in the results of this study tend to be higher than in the general population of women of childbearing age. This can be understood Tengger is located in the highlands and it has been known that the levels of hemoglobin in populations reside in the highlands area are higher than populations in the lowlands. Living in a highland area will cause a condition of oxygen deficiency known as hypoxia, because the partial pressure of oxygen is reduced and the acclimatization process occurs as the body's response mechanism. The acclimatization process results in an increase in hemoglobin levels as an effort to adapt to low oxygen conditions (Waani Andreas et al., 2014). Based on this consideration, in this study, in general, it was found that the average hemoglobin levels in women of childbearing age in Tengger could be categorized within the normal limits.

The incidence of decreasing hemoglobin levels below the normal value (reference value) based on WHO criteria was not found in the results of this study, but the results of this study showed that respondents who had the habit of drinking coffee and tea every day had a lower average hemoglobin level compared to respondents who did not. Habit of drinking coffee and tea occurs every day. Decreased hemoglobin levels or what is better known as anemia is caused by various factors. One of the factors that can influence is deficiency of nutritional intake containing iron, folic acid and vitamin B12. Nutrient intake rich in iron can be found in food sources of animal protein such as meat which is the main source of iron. If the content of the daily food consumed is lacking in these substances, there is a risk of anemia.

Another possibility that can affect is impaired iron absorption. One of the causes of impaired iron absorption is because there are substances that inhibit iron absorption, such as coffee and tea. Various studies state that consuming coffee and tea can affect the absorption of iron contained in food. The habit of drinking coffee and tea every day can reduce hemoglobin levels and result in anemia. This is due, among other things, to the substances contained in coffee and tea. Caffeine which is the main polyphenol component contained in coffee can inhibit the absorption of iron in the body and is a risk factor for anemia. Caffeine works by binding to receptors in the body that regulate iron absorption. In addition, caffeine also increases urine production so that it can accelerate the release of iron from the body, thus consuming coffee in excessive amounts can affect the incidence of anemia. Drinking too much coffee or drinking coffee for a long period of time has the potential to cause iron deficiency and cause anemia (Gunec Cagri Baris, 2023).

The type of coffee you drink also has an influence on reducing Hb levels. The caffeine content contained in pure coffee (black coffee) is known to be higher than the caffeine content in other types of coffee, including when added to a mixture of other ingredients. Research by Elfariyanti, et al (2020) which was conducted on the people of Banda Aceh reported that the type of coffee affects the decrease in hematocrit levels and thus increases the risk of anemia. Coffee that comes from pure coffee beans has a higher caffeine content than coffee that is mixed with other ingredients such as rice and corn. Elfariyanti, et al.'s research also analyzed the effect of the temperature of the water used in brewing coffee on the caffeine content in coffee. The higher the temperature during the steeping process, the higher the caffeine content obtained. The best water temperature for brewing coffee is 195°F to 205°F or 90°C to 96°C (Elfariyanti et al., 2020).

The habit of drinking tea every day is also believed to have an effect on decreasing hemoglobin levels. The tannin content in tea can bind the iron consumed. Tea has a tannin content of 7 – 15% which is a strong antigen that gives tea a distinctive taste, namely tart or astringent and can precipitate protein on the surface of cells so that excessive consumption of tannin can cause problems with protein absorption, including the main source of iron, most of which comes from protein. (Yushananta et al., 2021).

Polyphenolic compounds in most types of tea, especially black tea, have an antioxidant role which, when oxidized, can bind various minerals such as iron (Fe), zinc (Zn) and calcium (Ca), causing decreased absorption of iron. The ability of polyphenolic compounds to inhibit iron absorption in the digestive tract varies depending on the type of polyphenolic compounds consumed,

the amount and duration of consumption of polyphenols. According to various studies, the types of polyphenolic compounds consumed have different effects on iron absorption. Cheng TO's research states that green tea does not inhibit iron absorption in the duodenum. A similar study was also reported by Kubota, et al that there was no inhibitory effect on iron absorption in the duodenum and proximal jejunum by regularly consuming green tea (Gunec Cagri Baris, 2023). A body that is deficient in iron will affect the formation of red blood cells and hemoglobin, causing anemia. This is because iron is one of the raw materials needed for the formation of red blood cells and hemoglobin. The tannin content in tea has the potential to reduce iron absorption by up to 80% (Septiawan & Sugerta, 2015). Other literature states that the tannin content in black tea can reduce the absorption of non-heme iron if consumed together by 74 – 95%. (Yushananta et al., 2021). Diniatik's research (2007) concluded that the tannin content in green tea (1,440%) was higher than the tannin content in black tea (0.99%) (Diniatik et al., 2007). The thickness of the tea can also affect hemoglobin levels in the blood. The thicker the tea, the higher the tannin content, thus it can be concluded that tea consumed without a mixture of other ingredients has a higher effect in causing a decrease in hemoglobin levels compared to tea consumed without a mixture of other ingredients (Yushananta et al., 2021).

Impaired absorption of iron occurs especially if coffee or tea is consumed together with consuming foods that contain iron. The combination of food absorbed by the digestive tract greatly affects the absorption of iron. Iron absorption can be increased by consuming foodstuffs such as ascorbic acid (vitamin C), meat, fish and poultry. These food ingredients can counteract the inhibitory effect of iron absorption caused by food ingredients that inhibit iron absorption such as coffee and tea. Based on this, individuals with low iron intake and high intake of substances that inhibit iron absorption have the potential to experience anemia. Food composition affects the absorption of iron in the body (Gunec Cagri Baris, 2023). For example, consuming orange juice with meals can increase iron absorption. There was a significant inhibition of iron absorption when consuming tea together with rice, potato and onion soup even though it was accompanied by consumption of 100 mg of ascorbic acid. The amount of ingredients that increase and inhibit iron absorption greatly determines the final result of iron absorption. Consuming tea together with rice, potatoes and onion soup will significantly inhibit iron absorption (Nelson M. & Poulter J., 2004). Research by Rosander, et al. reports that iron absorption is greatly influenced by the combination of foods at mealtime. The study was conducted by analyzing the iron content of 0.17 mg in foods made from rice flour, cornstarch and black beans. When these foods were consumed together with vitamin C which was in the form of pure ascorbic acid weighing 50 mg or cauliflower 125 mg, there was an increase in iron absorption to 0.41 mg or 0.58 mg, respectively. In contrast to this condition, when consumed together with drinking tea, there will be a significant decrease in iron absorption (Diniatik et al., 2007).

The risk of impaired absorption of iron caused by consuming coffee and tea can be minimized by adjusting the time between eating and drinking coffee or tea, thus it is not recommended to consume coffee or tea with meals. Consuming coffee one hour before meals does not interfere with iron absorption in the digestive tract. Conversely, if you consume coffee one hour after eating, it can affect the absorption of iron the same as when consuming coffee at the same time as eating. Hurrell and Reddy's research reported that the levels of polyphenols in tea determine the ability to inhibit iron absorption. If a person has risk factors for anemia, then consuming tea is recommended one hour before eating and not consuming tea at the same time as eating (Gunec Cagri Baris, 2023). The results of this study also showed that patients who drank coffee and tea more than three times a day had a lower average hemoglobin level compared to respondents who only drank coffee and tea twice a day. The frequency of drinking coffee and tea is one of the factors that also affects the decrease in hemoglobin levels. The more often you consume coffee and tea every day, the higher the risk of decreased hemoglobin levels (Gunec Cagri Baris, 2023). According to SNI 01-7152-2006 the maximum limit for consuming caffeine is 150 mg/day or 50 mg/serving (Elfariyanti et al., 2020) (Wahdah et al., 2023)

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

One of the limitations of this study is that there is no data explaining the time between drinking coffee or tea and eating time in the Tenggerese, therefore it cannot be analyzed further in more detail with regard to some respondents, especially those who are consuming both coffee and tea. There is also no data explaining the habit of taking Fe supplements or intake of foods that contain iron, vitamins and minerals which play a role in the formation of red blood cells or hemoglobin which might offset the habit of drinking coffee and tea which have the potential to cause anemia. Furthermore the limitation of this study is that there is no data explaining the type of coffee and tea consumed.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The results of the study stated that there was an influence between the habit of drinking coffee and tea and decreasing hemoglobin levels in women of childbearing age in Tengger. The habit of drinking coffee and tea every day affects the decrease in hemoglobin levels, as well as the frequency of drinking coffee and tea. The more coffee and tea you drink every day, the greater the potential for a decrease in hemoglobin levels. The results of this research can be used as a consideration for local health services and community health centers in preventing the incidence of anemia in women of childbearing age in Tengger as well as a means of education or counseling on how to prevent anemia. Local communities can make efforts to prevent a decrease in hemoglobin levels by changing their habit of drinking coffee and tea regularly every day by reducing the amount and frequency of drinking coffee and tea, and not consuming coffee or tea with meals. It is hoped that this research can be a reference for further research in analyzing other nutrients that can influence a decrease in hemoglobin levels or the incidence of anemia. Proposed future research could be to identify and analyze the influence of the time of day you drink coffee and tea, the combination of foods, the type of coffee and tea you drink on the incidence of anemia.

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