

M.R. Hussain, S.T. Chai, S.A.R. Sharifah Norazizan. *Computer anxiety and attitudes towards the internet among older Malaysians*. *Gerontechnology* 2008; 7(2):126. Computer anxiety is the 'fear of impending interaction with a computer that is disproportionate to the actual threat presented by the computer'¹. Past studies have shown that many older persons have experienced computer anxiety and fear of the internet which resulted in its limited use²⁻⁵. Seniors who are confident in their ability to use the Internet, who are comfortable using the Internet, and who are experienced in using computers are more likely to use the Internet for comparison shopping⁶. **Method** A cross-sectional survey of computer and internet usage among older Malaysians in the community was conducted in 2008 at multiple urban localities for the states of Selangor, Kelantan, Pahang and Negeri Sembilan. The survey investigated the computer attitude, computer anxiety and attitudes towards the internet of both older users and non-users aged 60 years or over. Data were entered and analyzed using the Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS). **Result and Discussion** Preliminary results showed that a majority of the interviewed respondents have limited access to the computer and internet. Prior usage was mostly for work and few have had formal learning opportunities. A common anxiety is related to fear of irrevocable damage while using the computer.

References

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