

The Effect of E-Learning on the Attitude Toward Dengue Prevention and the Acceptance of Dengue Vaccination

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Background: A community's attitude toward dengue prevention and its acceptance of dengue vaccine and vaccination play an essential role in the success of the dengue infection prevention program. To develop their attitude and acceptance, the implementation of learning media is required.

Objective: The objective of the study was to examine the effectiveness of e-learning for developing the community's attitude toward dengue prevention and its acceptance of dengue vaccine and vaccination.

Methods: This study employed a quasi-experimental method with pre- and post-test design by involving 85 subjects that were purposively selected from the low-prevalence area of dengue infection in the City of Bandung, West Java Province, Indonesia. A valid and reliable questionnaire was delivered during pre- (day 1) and post-test (day 7). For the e-learning, it was given on day 1 after completing the pre-test. A descriptive statistical method was applied to describe the research variables, to analyze the correlation between the subjects' attitude and acceptance, and to examine the significant differences (pre- and post-test) between the subjects' attitude toward dengue prevention and their acceptance of dengue vaccine and vaccination.

Results: Approximately 88.24% and 11.76% of subjects have good and fair knowledge about dengue disease, respectively. Concerning knowledge about dengue vaccine, 44.71% and 55.29% of them have good and fair knowledge, respectively. In particular, there is an increase in their attitude toward dengue prevention (p -value <0.05), their acceptance of dengue vaccine (p -value <0.05) and their acceptance of dengue vaccination program (p -value <0.05) after they got information from e-learning.

Conclusion: E-learning could have significant effects to increase the community's attitude toward dengue prevention and their acceptance of dengue vaccine and vaccination.

Keywords: quasi-experimental, pre-test, post-test, questionnaire, correlation analysis

Introduction

Dengue infection is a type of infectious disease that has become one of the serious public health issues in tropical countries. The manifestation of dengue infection ranges from dengue fever (DF) to the more severe forms, dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and dengue shock syndrome (DSS).¹ Indonesia is one of the vulnerable tropical countries that may suffer endemic dengue disease. According to data from the Ministry of Health (MoH), there are 23 among 100,000 in the Indonesian population suffering from dengue disease and an annual fatality rate is reported to be 0.75%.² In 2015, there were approximately 129,650 dengue cases in 34

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provinces in Indonesia, and 1071 of them were fatal cases.² Another data set in 2017 reported 201,885 dengue cases and 1585 deaths.³ This increasing number was caused by climate change and low community awareness about the importance of keeping their environment clean.²

In the most populous province in Indonesia, West Java Province, the number of dengue infections was reported to be 36,631 cases (77.31 cases per 100,000 population) and the fatality rate was estimated to be 0.74%.⁴ The number of dengue cases is consistently increasing, indicating the need of comprehensive disease prevention strategies. To deal with this problem, the government has spent a budget of approximately USD 381 million on dengue prevention, which was reported to be the highest amount among Southeast Asian countries.¹ Nevertheless, the attempt to prevent dengue infection is constrained due to its borderless spread. In a comparison with other prevention strategies, dengue vaccination is considered to be the most cost-effective intervention to decrease the number of dengue infections since the human immune response plays an essential role in pathogenic infectious disease.⁵ In 2016, the Indonesian Food and Drug Authority issued an official license for the use of dengue vaccine in Indonesia.⁶ Due to limited data on its economic aspect and the community's acceptance of this particular vaccine, this vaccine has not been included in the national immunization program.⁷ The implementation of dengue vaccination in Indonesia needs support from the community. Effective learning media are required to enhance the community's attitude toward dengue prevention and the acceptance of dengue vaccination program.

E-learning is one of the effective learning tools for developing the learners' attitude and other behavioral traits.⁸ It is a medium of creating, managing and distributing information by utilizing information and communication technology (ICT).⁹ In recent decades, the use of ICT for educational purposes has increased, and the spread of network technologies has caused e-learning practices to evolve significantly.¹⁰ The development of e-learning may use any kind of learning management system (LMS). Through this system, e-learning can result in a network-enabled transfer of attitude to a large number of recipients at the same or different times.^{11,12}

This study was targeted to address problems dealing with the extensive use of e-learning for developing the community's attitude and acceptance of dengue prevention strategies to be conducted in the City of Bandung, West Java Province, Indonesia. This study specifically aimed to

examine the effectiveness of e-learning for developing the community's attitude toward dengue prevention and its acceptance of dengue vaccine and vaccination. Hopefully, this study can give a contribution to stakeholders by providing an appropriate mode of adult learning media.

Methods

E-Learning

In this study, we developed e-learning by using the modular object-oriented dynamic learning environment (Moodle), which was targeted to give positive impact on the community's attitude and acceptance. The Moodle was selected since it has been acknowledged as a good platform in distance learning and telework activity.¹³ As an LMS application, it also can be used to extend learning environments by using community-sourced plugins. In addition, blended and distance learning in school, workplace or other sectors can also use this tool.

Questionnaire

This study employed a quasi-experimental method by using a one-shot case study with pre- and post-test design. It involved 85 subjects, of whom 35 males (41.18%) and 50 females (58.82%), that were selected from the lowest-prevalence area in the City of Bandung, West Java Province, Indonesia. A valid and reliable questionnaire using a Likert scale was applied to measure the subjects' attitude toward dengue prevention and their acceptance of dengue vaccine and vaccination (see Table 1). The validity and reliability of the questionnaire was reviewed by two experts and assessed by using the Cronbach Alpha technique, respectively. The questionnaire was delivered in pre-(day 1) and post-test (day 7). For the e-learning, it was given on day 1 after completing the pre-test. A descriptive statistical method was applied to describe the research variables, to analyze the correlation between the subjects' attitude and acceptance, and to examine the significant differences (pre- and post-test) between the subjects' attitude toward dengue prevention and their acceptance of dengue vaccine and vaccination. The process of data analysis utilized SPSS.

Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the Ethics Committee of Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia (registration number: 89/UN6.KEP/EC/2019), and this study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Survey participants signed an informed

Table 1 Statements on Attitude Toward Dengue Prevention and Acceptance of Dengue Vaccination

Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
Attitude toward dengue prevention					
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
Acceptance of dengue vaccination					
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

consent form prior to enrollment even though the study met the criteria for exemption. The incentive for each respondent completing the survey (pre- and post-test) was a phone credit of IDR 20,000 (US\$ 1.38).

Results

The e-learning module for developing the community's attitude of dengue prevention is accessible at <http://www.elearningdbd.moodlecloud.com>. Its feature can be seen in [Figure 1A](#). The e-learning offers a course on attitude of dengue prevention in the form of a modular instruction and video, in which every learner can choose what to learn, chat with the instructor and respond to quizzes, as presented in [Figure 1B](#). In addition, [Figure 1C](#) represents an example of the course content that a learner can access.

[Table 2](#) summarizes demographic characteristic of respondents. The majority of respondents were females (80%), in the age group of 18–24 years old (73%), had college education background or higher (63%) and had income of more than IDR 1 million per month (44%).

Based on expert judgment, the questionnaire's content was considered to be valid. It was also considered to be reliable because of its reliability index ($\alpha = 0.86$). The results of this study showed that among 85 subjects involved in this study, 88.24% and 11.76% of them have good and fair knowledge about dengue disease, respectively. Concerning knowledge about dengue vaccine, 44.71% and 55.29% of them have good and fair knowledge, respectively. Concerning the attitude and acceptance, a questionnaire using a Likert scale (5 scales) was applied.

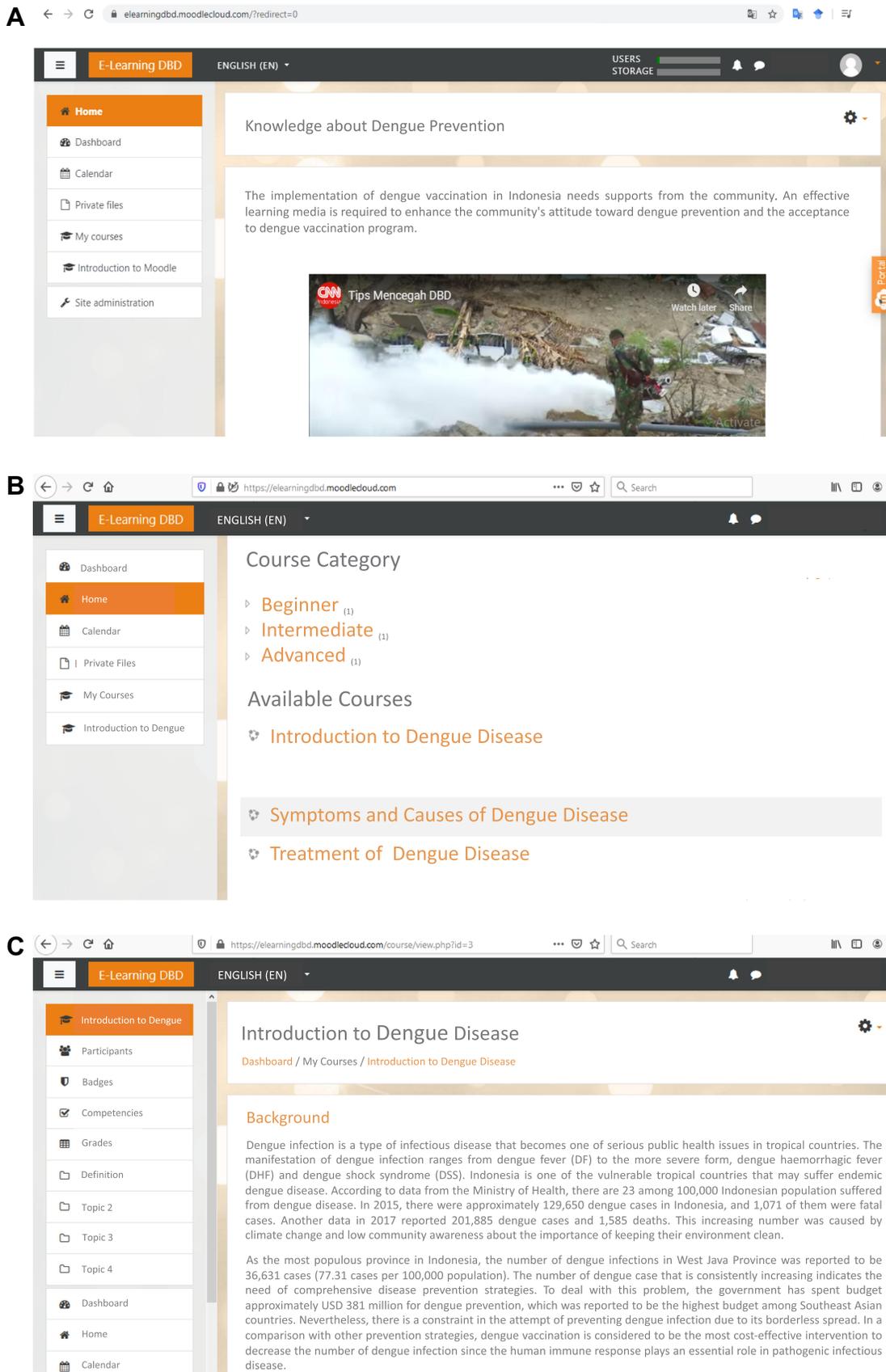


Figure 1 (A) The feature. (B) Course categories. (C) A course example.

Table 2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Demographic Characteristics		Number	%
Sex	Male	35	41.18%
	Female	50	58.82%
Age	18–24	62	72.94%
	25–34	12	14.12%
	35–44	4	4.71%
	45–54	4	4.71%
	55–64	3	3.53%
	>64	0	0%
Education level	Elementary school	1	1.18%
	Junior high school	0	0%
	Senior high school	30	35.29%
	College or higher	54	63.53%
Employment status	Employee	30	35.29%
	Unemployment	9	10.59%
	Retired	1	1.18%
	Others	45	52.94%
Income per month	<IDR 1 million	37	43.53%
	IDR 1–3 million	22	25.88%
	IDR 3–6 million	16	18.82%
	IDR 6–10 million	8	9.41%
	>IDR 10 million	2	2.35%

To represent descriptive statistics, the scales were categorized into three criteria: unfavorable or not good (1 and 2), fairly favorable or fairly good (3) and favorable or good (4 and 5). The descriptive statistics (pre- and post-test) of the subjects' attitude toward dengue prevention, the subjects' acceptance of dengue vaccine and the subjects' acceptance of dengue vaccination are presented in Tables 3, Tables 4–5, respectively.

Wilcoxon signed rank and McNemar tests were applied to analyze the effect of e-learning on the subjects' attitude toward dengue prevention and the effect of e-learning on their acceptance of dengue vaccine and dengue vaccination, respectively. Both tests were done by comparing pre- and post-test by considering $\alpha = 0.05$. The results are presented in Tables 6 and 7.

Table 3 Subjects' Attitude Based on Pre- and Post-Test

Criteria	% of Pre-Test	% of Post-Test	Asymp. Sig (2 Tailed)
Favorable	81.18%	97.65%	.000
Fairly Favorable	18.82%	2.35%	
Unfavorable	0%	0%	

Table 4 Subjects' Acceptance of Dengue Vaccine Based on Pre- and Post-Test

Criteria	% of Pre-Test	% of Post-Test	Asymp. Sig (2 Tailed)
Yes	16.47%	38.82%	.000
No	83.53%	61.18%	

Table 5 Subjects' Acceptance of Dengue Vaccination Based on Pre- and Post-Test

Criteria	% of Pre-Test	% of Post-Test	Asymp. Sig (2 Tailed)
Yes	44.71%	82.35%	.000
No	55.29%	17.65%	

Table 6 The Effect of e-Learning on Attitude Toward Dengue Prevention

Pre-Test and Post-Test Results (n=85)			
Negative Ranks	Positive Ranks	Ties	Asymp. Sig. (2-Tailed)
8 ^a	27 ^b	50 ^c	0.000

Notes: ^aPost-test < pre-test; ^bpost-test > pre-test; ^cpost-test = pre-test.

Discussion

The government of Indonesia has attempted several strategies, such as vector control and environment management by involving communities, to prevent dengue infection and to decrease the rate of virus infection in the population. Nevertheless, the number of dengue cases tends to increase annually. It might be caused by poor participation of the local community in the prevention strategies. In addition, the heterogeneity of their education and attitude is responsible for the program achieved an optimum result.² On the other hand, dengue vaccination is potentially considered to decrease the number of dengue infections and to save treatment cost.^{14–16} Vaccination has been known as the most effective strategy to prevent infectious diseases, including dengue infection, in Indonesia.^{17–21} Theoretically, the dengue vaccination program in Indonesia is able to control the spread of dengue disease, as MoH aimed to achieve a vaccination coverage of at least 69%.² However, this program needs support from the community. A study in some developing countries indicated that a community's acceptance of dengue vaccine and vaccination was associated with the successful implementation of a vaccination program.⁷ Learning from

Table 7 The Effect of e-Learning on Acceptance of Dengue Vaccine and Vaccination

Pre-Test		Post-Test		Pre-test		Post-Test		Exact Sig. (2-Tailed) (n=85)
Yes	No	Yes	No			Yes	No	
14	71	33	52		Yes	12	2	0.000
16.47%	83.53%	38.82%	61.18%		No	21	50	

the implementation of other vaccination programs in Indonesia, the community's attitude toward dengue prevention and its acceptance of dengue vaccination are considered as key factors in the success of dengue prevention efforts in Indonesia.²²

Pre-test results of the subjects' attitude toward dengue prevention indicate that 81.18%, 18.82% and 0% of them have favorable, fairly favorable and unfavorable attitudes, respectively. Post-test results of subjects' attitude toward dengue prevention indicate that 97.65%, 2.35% and 0% of them have favorable, fairly favorable attitude and unfavorable attitude, respectively. The increase in their favorable attitude (16.47%) and the decrease in their fairly favorable attitude (16.47%) are significant, as indicated by asymptotic significance (2-tailed) of p -value <0.05 . Furthermore, pre-test results of the subjects' acceptance of dengue vaccine indicate 16.47% and 83.53% of them accept and reject it, respectively. Post-test results indicate 38.82% and 61.15% of them accept and reject it, respectively. There is an increase in their acceptance of dengue vaccine after they got information from e-learning. The increase in their acceptance (22.35%) and the decrease in their rejection (22.45%) are significant, as indicated by asymptotic significance (2-tailed) of p -value <0.05 . In particular, pre-test results of the subjects' acceptance of dengue vaccination program indicate 44.71% and 55.29% of them accept and reject it, respectively. Post-test results indicate 82.35% and 17.65% of them accept and reject it, respectively. There is an increase in their acceptance after they got information from e-learning. The increase in their acceptance (37.61%) and the decrease in their rejection (37.64%) are significant, as indicated by asymptotic significance (2-tailed) of p -value <0.05 .

In this study, we ordered the subjects based on their age, educational background and occupation in order to analyze the correlation (pre- and post-test) with their attitude toward dengue prevention, acceptance of dengue vaccine and dengue vaccination. Using Spearman rank, correlation analysis results indicate there is no significant correlation between age and attitude toward dengue prevention (pre-test with r -value=0.063, p -value=5.67; and

post-test with r -value=-0.191, p -value=0.080), age and acceptance of dengue vaccine (pre-test with r -value=-0.125, p -value=0.256; and post-test with r -value=0.113, p -value=0.303), age and acceptance of dengue vaccination (pre-test with r -value=0.074, p -value=0.503; and post-test with r -value=-0.005, p -value=0.965). The results also indicate there is a significant correlation between education background and attitude toward dengue prevention based on pre-test (r -value=0.362, p -value=0.001), but the correlation based on post-test is not significant (r -value=0.130, p -value=0.234). Additionally, there is no significant correlation between education background and acceptance of dengue vaccine (pre-test with r -value=-0.209, p -value=0.555; and post-test with r -value=-0.001, p -value=0.234), education background and acceptance of dengue vaccination (pre-test with r -value=0.169, p -value=0.123; and post-test with r -value=0.048, p -value=0.666). Furthermore, the results also indicate there is no significant correlation between level of occupation and attitude toward dengue prevention (pre-test with r -value=0.036, p -value=0.746; and post-test with r -value=-0.035, p -value=0.747), level of occupation and acceptance of dengue vaccine (pre-test with r -value=0.169, p -value=0.123; and post-test with r -value=0.048, p -value=0.666), level of occupation and acceptance of dengue vaccination (pre-test with r -value=0.106, p -value=0.333; and post-test with r -value=-0.019, p -value=0.861). Based on the correlation analysis, the only significant correlation is between education background and attitude toward dengue prevention on pre-test. It can be interpreted that the higher subjects' education background, the more favorable attitude in a setting before they got information from the e-learning, but their attitude was not significantly correlated with the level of education, thereafter.

Furthermore, the results of Wilcoxon signed rank test indicate negative and positive ranks. There are 8 subjects with negative rank (the result of post- is lower than pre-test), 27 subjects with positive rank (the result of post- is higher than pre-test result), and 50 subjects neither negative nor positive (the result of pre- and post-test is equal)

with asymptotic significance (2-tailed) of p -value <0.05 . There is a significant difference between the results in pre- and post-test. Additionally, the result in post-test is higher than pre-test. It can be interpreted that e-learning has a significant effect on the subjects' attitude toward dengue prevention. Taking McNemar test into account, the results indicate that the subjects' acceptance of dengue vaccine and vaccination increases from 16.47% to 38.82% after e-learning application. In contrast, the percentage of those who responded no (reject) also decreases from 83.53% to 61.18%. Comparing pre- and post-test data, the results indicate a significant difference, as represented by exact significance (2-tailed) with p -value <0.05 . This result leads to a conclusion that e-learning has significant effect on the subjects' attitude toward dengue prevention, their acceptance of dengue vaccine and vaccination.

Despite the fact that the study has a major limitation in the sample size, it has significant implication on the effectiveness of e-learning application as one of efforts to prevent dengue infection. To our knowledge, this e-learning program for dengue prevention by using the Moodle platform is the first to be implemented in Indonesia. Following the results of this study, we encourage stakeholders to enhance the use of e-learning, for instance with the Moodle platform, to improve the community's attitude toward dengue prevention and the community's acceptance of dengue vaccine and vaccination. To make an effective utilization of e-learning, there are several factors to be considered, such as learner, learning materials, learning atmosphere and technology.²³ For the application in formal and non-formal education, e-learning can be applied as a supplement, a complement or a substitute.²⁴ As a supplement, the learners undertake regular teaching-learning processes, and they are free to decide whether or not to take the e-learning program for enrichment. As a complement, the learners undertake regular teaching-learning processes, and the teacher assigns them to take an e-learning program as a reinforcement. As a substitute, the teacher undertakes the teaching-learning process through the internet, which means the function of e-learning is as a substitute for the regular teaching-learning process. To accelerate the implementation of e-learning, Clark et al highlighted three valuable instructional methods, such as practice with tailored feedback, integration of collaboration with self-study and use of simulation.²⁵ In the context of sustainability factors for e-learning initiatives in the health sector, these approaches can be implemented by the government of Indonesia to enhance

interactivity, increase flexibility, reach more learners and keep the content updated.

Conclusions

The subjects involved in this study vary concerning their gender, age, education background and employment status. The community's attitude toward dengue prevention is favorable, and it increases after they are involved in e-learning. They also indicate their acceptance of dengue vaccine and vaccination, and somehow, after they are being involved in e-learning, the proportion of those who previously accept the dengue vaccine and vaccination increases, and the proportion of those who previously reject the dengue vaccine and vaccination decreases. A further study is required to compare the effectiveness of e-learning with other education platforms.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization: MA and AAS; methodology: MA and AAS; software: AA and AAS; validation: AA and AAS; formal analysis: AA and AAS; investigation: MA and AAS; resources: MA and AA; writing, original draft preparation: MA and AAS; writing, review and editing: AA and AAS; supervision: AAS; project administration: AA; All authors made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; took part in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; agreed to submit to the current journal; gave final approval of the version to be published; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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Disclosure

The authors declare no conflicts of interest in this work.

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