



รายงานฉบับสมบูรณ์

โครงการเวชปฏิบัติอิงหลักฐานในประเทศไทย

ศาสตราจารย์นายแพทย์วิษณุ ธรรมลิขิตกุล

สิงหาคม 2547

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ศาสตราจารย์นายแพทย์วิษณุ ธรรมลิขิตกุล
ภาควิชาอายุรศาสตร์และสถานส่งเสริมการวิจัย
คณะแพทยศาสตร์ศิริราชพยาบาล

สนับสนุนโดยสำนักงานกองทุนสนับสนุนการวิจัย
ความเห็นในรายงานนี้เป็นของผู้วิจัย ยกเว้นที่ได้ระบุไว้

โครงการเรียนรู้นักพัฒนาสุขภาพในประเทศไทยที่ได้รับการสนับสนุนจากทุนบริวิชช์ อาชูไส สำนักงานกองทุนสนับสนุนการวิจัยที่ได้ดำเนินการในระยะเวลา 3 ปี ตั้งแต่กันยายน พ.ศ. 2544 ถึง สิงหาคม พ.ศ. 2547 โดยประกอบด้วยกิจกรรม 6 ด้าน ได้แก่

ด้านที่ 1 การพัฒนาฐานข้อมูลผลงานวิจัยที่มีคุณภาพสูงที่คิดพิมพ์ในวารสารที่เผยแพร่ในประเทศไทยจำนวน 9 ฉบับ โดยวิเคราะห์ประเมินผลงานวิจัยจำนวน 3,705 เรื่องและรวมรวมผลงานวิจัยประเทศไทย randomized controlled study จำนวน 204 เรื่องเพื่อเผยแพร่ในฐานข้อมูลนานาชาติ

ด้านที่ 2 การวิเคราะห์ประเมินคุณภาพและการเผยแพร่แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติ (clinical practice guidelines) ที่ทั่วไปในประเทศไทยจำนวน 232 เรื่องซึ่งหน่วยงานที่เกี่ยวข้องและน่าไปถูกต้องและน่าเชื่อถือ ให้เป็นมาตรฐาน ผลการศึกษานี้ได้เผยแพร่ไปยังหน่วยงานที่เกี่ยวข้องและน่าไปถูกต้องการพัฒนาการสร้าง กระบวนการ และการเผยแพร่แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่มีคุณภาพและเหมาะสมมากขึ้น

ด้านที่ 3 การพัฒนาทักษะในการเรียนรู้และสอนโครงการวิจัยของนักวิจัยรุ่นเยาว์ที่ด้านนักเป็นอาจารย์ในคณะแพทยศาสตร์ต่าง ๆ และเป็นนักศึกษาปริญญาโทไทยได้รับการสอนโครงการวิจัยที่มีคุณภาพจำนวน 37 โครงการ

ด้านที่ 4 การจัดการความรู้โดยนำเสนอความรู้ที่ถูกต้อง เที่ยงตรง และประยุกต์ใช้ได้ในประเทศไทยอย่างมีประสิทธิภาพและปรับเปลี่ยนให้บริการสุขภาพเป็นบริการที่สอดคล้องกับหลักฐานเพื่อนำไปสู่บริการสุขภาพที่มีประสิทธิภาพ ปลอดภัย คุ้มค่า และเป็นธรรม

ด้านที่ 5 การวิจัยเพื่อสร้างความรู้ใหม่ความรู้ที่ขยายผล ร่วมโครงการ ตามปัญหาสุขภาพ และความต้องการของผู้ร่วมโครงการ ให้เป็นไปสู่การให้บริการสุขภาพ

กิจกรรมในด้านที่ 4 และ 5 นี้ได้มีผลงานวิจัยที่พิมพ์แล้วในวารสารวิชาการและ ให้นำไปสู่การให้ประชุมจำนวน 16 เรื่องในระยะเวลา 3 ปีตั้งแต่

ด้านที่ 6 ความเชื่อมโยงกับองค์กรระหว่างประเทศไทยกับการจัดการความรู้ที่อยู่ร่วมในโครงการวิเคราะห์ประเมินความต้องการความต้องการที่มีความต้องการและสนับสนุนขององค์กรต้นนับต้นทุนวิจัยใน 10 ประเทศไทยในศักยภาพในการนำผลงานวิจัยไปใช้ประชุม และร่วมในโครงการจัดการความรู้ของ International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLEN)

Abstract

The project on "Promoting Evidence-Based Medicine in Thailand" under the Senior Researcher Scholar, Thailand Research Fund during September 2001 to August 2004 is composed of 6 activities.

Activity 1 : The database for high quality clinical research results published in 9 leading Thai medical journals is created. 3,705 clinical research publications were reviewed for quality. 204 articles were randomized controlled studies and the abstracts of these articles were prepared in English and disseminated to international database.

Activity 2 : 232 official clinical practice guidelines in Thailand were assessed for quality and dissemination of the guidelines to the users. It was found that most of the guidelines had poor quality and the dissemination strategy of the guidelines to the end users was inappropriate. The findings were presented to responsible institutions and led to the project for revision of the existing guidelines, development of higher quality guidelines and more appropriate dissemination of the guidelines.

Activity 3 : The skills in preparing high quality clinical research proposals of master degree students were strengthened. 37 high quality clinical research proposals were produced and executed.

Activity 4 : The valid, relevant and applicable research results were disseminated and implemented in evidence-based health policy and clinical practice in order to achieve effective, safe, efficient and equitable health care.

Activity 5 : The new knowledge in health was generated according to the health burden or policymaker-driven or user-driven or expertise of the researchers who joined this project.

The outputs for the activities 4 and 5 are 16 published articles as well as improvements in quality, efficiency and equity of relevant health care services.

Activity 6 : The project team has joined 2 international projects related to knowledge management to promote evidence-based health policy and practice. One is "International Study of Health Research Funding Agencies' Support and Promotion of Knowledge Translation". Another is "Knowledge Plus Project" which is the knowledge management project organized by International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLEN).

เนื้อหาของโครงการ

กิจกรรมที่ 1 การสร้างฐานข้อมูลของงานวิจัยในประเทศไทย

ผลงานวิจัยทางคลินิกจำนวนมากที่ดำเนินการโดยคนไทยในประเทศไทยเป็นผลงานวิจัยที่มีคุณภาพและมีประสิทธิภาพ ผลงานวิจัยเหล่านี้ได้รับการพิมพ์เผยแพร่ในวารสารภายในประเทศไทยซึ่งเป็นวารสารที่ไม่ได้อู่ในฐานข้อมูลนานาชาติ ดังนั้นผลงานวิจัยเหล่านี้จึงไม่สามารถศึกษาได้จาก การศึกษาที่ศึกษาทางฐานข้อมูลนานาชาติและมิได้ออกนำเสนอไปทั่วประเทศ เนื่องจากในช่วงนี้ได้รวมอยู่ใน ข้อมูลประจำทาง systematic reviews (meta-analysis) ดังนั้นจะละเอียดกว่าในโครงการจัดทำฐานข้อมูลทาง วิจัยทางคลินิกที่ศึกษาในวารสารของสถาบันการแพทย์ ราชวิทยาลัย และสมาคมวิชาชีพจำนวน 9 ฉบับ คือ สารศิริราช, มหาดิษฐ์เวชสาร, วารสารรัมภิรบี, สงขลานครินทร์เวชสาร, ศรีนครินทร์ เวชสาร, เชียงใหม่วิชาชีพ, วารสาร โรงพยาบาลพระมงกุฎเกล้า, วารสารอาชญาศาสตร์ของราช วิทยาลัยอาชญาศาสตร์ และวารสารของราชวิทยาลัยวิจัยภูมิปัญญาแพทย์ในระยะเวลา 20 ปีตั้งแต่ปี พ.ศ. 2543 แล้วน้านาวิเคราะห์เพื่อเลือกเอาผลงานวิจัยที่มีคุณภาพมาสังเคราะห์และเผยแพร่ให้เกิด ประสิทธิภาพวิธีการค่างๆ ทั่ว น้ำหนักฐานศึกษาดังกล่าวมาใช้ประกอบการจัดทำแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติการ ให้บริการผู้ป่วย นักวิจัยนับที่คิดถือของผลงานวิจัยทั้งกล่าวถูกแปลเป็นภาษาอังกฤษเพื่อส่งไปตีพิมพ์ ในฐานข้อมูลนานาชาติ เช่น ฐานข้อมูล Cochrane Central โดย Professor Dr. Iain Chalmers ซึ่ง เป็นประธานของ Cochrane Collaboration ได้ส่งไปโครงการนี้และขึ้นตีพิมพ์ในเอกสารงานศึกษาต่อว่าไปตีพิมพ์ ไว้ในฐานข้อมูลของ Cochrane Central

หัวหน้าโครงการและผู้ร่วมโครงการ ได้ร่วบรวมและวิเคราะห์ผลงานวิจัยทางคลินิกจำนวน 3,705 เรื่อง พนบว่าผลงานวิจัยจำนวน 204 เรื่อง (ร้อยละ 5) เป็นผลงานวิจัยประเภท randomized controlled study ซึ่งจัดเป็นผลงานวิจัยที่มีคุณภาพสูง และได้นำมาใช้การเพื่อส่งไปร่วบรวมอยู่ในฐานข้อมูลนานาชาติ

นอกจากนี้ ได้ประสานงานกับ Thai Cochrane Network ซึ่งเป็นเครือข่ายที่ดำเนินการร่วมและวิเคราะห์ผลงานวิจัยทางคลินิกในประเทศไทย เช่นกันในการดำเนินงานร่วมและวิเคราะห์ผลงานวิจัยทางคลินิกที่ศิริพันพิมสารอื่นที่นอกเหนือจากวารสาร 9 ฉบับดังกล่าว

กิจกรรมที่ 2 การประเมินแนวทางเรื่องปัจจัยดีและการเผยแพร่แนวทางเรื่องปัจจัยดีในประเทศไทย

2.1. การประเมินคุณภาพแนวทางของปัจจัยพิทักษ์ร่างชื่นในประเทศไทย

ในปัจจุบันมีแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติทางการแพทย์อย่างเป็นทางการจำนวน 232 เรื่องที่สร้างจาก
ราชวิทยาลัย/ วิทยาลัย/ สถาบัน/ ชั้นรวมวิชาชีพต่างๆ และเครือข่ายแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติแห่งประเทศไทย
ไทย โดยแผนแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติทางการแพทย์จำนวน 178 เรื่อง ได้รับการรับรองจากแพทยสภา และ 54

เรื่องให้รับการรับรองจากเครือข่ายแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติแห่งประเทศไทยวิเคราะห์ประเมินคุณภาพโดยอาศัยเกณฑ์ประเมินระดับมาตรฐานทางด้านรายการงานที่ 1994 Arc Guidelines Following Guidelines? The methodological quality of clinical practice guidelines in the peer-reviewed medical literature จากรายงาน JAMA 1999; 281: 1900-5 โดยรายงานนี้ได้ดึงเกณฑ์เพื่อประเมินคุณภาพของแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติจำนวน 279 เรื่องที่รายงานในวารสารนานาชาติระหว่าง พ.ศ. 2528 ถึง พ.ศ. 2540 เกณฑ์ดังกล่าวมีหัวข้อประเมินทั้งหมด 25 ข้อ โดยจัดแบ่งออกได้เป็น 3 กลุ่ม คือ

หัวหน้าโครงการและผู้ร่วมโครงการได้ประเมินคุณภาพแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติทางการแพทย์อย่างจำนวน 232 เรื่องที่สร้างในประเทศไทยพบผลตั้งแต่ครึ่งในตาราง

ตาราง ผลการประเมินคุณภาพของแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติจำนวน 232 เรื่องที่สร้างในประเทศไทย
เปรียบเทียบกับแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่รายงานในวรรณสารนานาชาติ

เกณฑ์คุณภาพ	ร้อยละเฉลี่ยของแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่มีเกณฑ์		
	แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่ รายงานในวรรณกรรม นานาชาติ	แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่ กรุงในประเทศไทย	
Guideline Development & Format (10 items)	51	39	
Evidence Identification & Summary (10 items)	34	7	
Formulation of Recommendations (5 Items)	46	9	
Overall	43	21	
	(11 / 25)	(5 / 25)	

ผลการประเมินดังกล่าวและสรุปแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่สร้างขึ้นในประเทศไทยยังค่อนข้างภาพใน 3 ประเด็น คือ Evidence Identification, Evidence Summary และ Formulation of Recommendations

ผลการศึกษาดังกล่าวได้นำไปสู่ข้อเสนอแนะและ การดำเนินการต่อ ดังนี้

- แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่จะสร้างใหม่ในอนาคตควรคำนึงถึงการดูแล ความเครียด และ การสรุปหลักฐานที่จะนำมาใช้เป็นสาระสำคัญของแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติ และการสังเคราะห์คำแนะนำ แนวทางและวิธีปฏิบัติในแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติ

- ควรมีการทบทวนแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่ได้สร้างและเผยแพร่ไปแล้วเกี่ยวกับหลักฐานที่นำมาใช้เป็นสาระสำคัญของแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติ และการสังเคราะห์คำแนะนำในแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติ

- หัวหน้าโครงการและผู้ร่วมโครงการ ได้สร้าง "แนวทางการสร้างแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติ" และ เผยแพร่ในวารสารคลินิก พ.ศ. 2545 ฉบับที่ 8 หน้า 111-7 และ 201-3

- ราชวิทยาลัยอาชีวแพทย์แห่งประเทศไทยได้รับความดังกล่าวเป็นแนวทางในการ ทบทวนแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่สร้างไว้แล้วและการสร้างแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติประเทศไทยอิงหลักฐานเรื่อง ใหม่

2.2. การประเมินการเผยแพร่แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติ

เครื่องข่ายแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติแห่งประเทศไทยได้เผยแพร่แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติจำนวน 54 เรื่อง ไปสู่ผู้ใช้ที่ปฏิบัติงานที่ศูนย์สุขภาพชุมชนในโครงการหลักประกันสุขภาพด้านหน้าจ้านวน 13,723 แห่งทั้งหมดที่เดือนกันยายน พ.ศ. 2544 โดยที่จังหวัดเวชปฏิบัติไปยังศูนย์สุขภาพชุมชนหรือสำนัก งานสาธารณสุขจังหวัดในรูปแบบ compact disc และเอกสารรวมกันใน 1 แผ่น

หัวหน้าโครงการและผู้ร่วมโครงการ ได้สร้างแบบสอบถามตามเกี่ยวกับการใช้แนวทางเวช ปฏิบัติ แล้วส่งให้ศูนย์สุขภาพชุมชนจำนวน 2,219 ศูนย์ (ร้อยละ 16) จากศูนย์ 1 ที่มีอยู่ทั้งหมด จำนวน 13,723 ศูนย์ฯ โดยศูนย์สุขภาพชุมชนจำนวน 2,219 ศูนย์นี้แบ่งได้เป็น 2 กลุ่ม คือ

กลุ่มที่ 1 ศูนย์สุขภาพชุมชนทุกศูนย์ในจังหวัดพระนครศรีอยุธยา (257 ศูนย์ฯ) และจังหวัด ปทุมธานี (88 ศูนย์ฯ) ซึ่งเป็นจังหวัดที่จะมีการศึกษาอย่างละเอียดในระยะต่อไป

กลุ่มที่ 2 ศูนย์สุขภาพชุมชนในจังหวัดอื่นที่เหลือ โดยการสุ่มประมาณร้อยละ 10 ด้วยวิธี multi-stage random sampling

ผลการดำเนินงาน

1. จำนวนแบบสอบถามที่ส่งออกไปและได้รับคืนมาวิเคราะห์ผลร้อยละ 33
2. การวิเคราะห์แบบสอบถามที่ได้รับคืนจากศูนย์สุขภาพชุมชนจำนวน 732 แห่ง พบว่า
 - 2.1. สถานภาพของศูนย์สุขภาพชุมชนร้อยละ 97 เป็นสถานพยาบาลของรัฐ
 - 2.2. จำนวนประชากรในความรับผิดชอบ โดยเฉลี่ยประมาณ 9,000 คนต่อศูนย์ฯ

2.3. บุคลากรประจำเป็นแพทย์ร้อยละ 14, หันแพทย์ร้อยละ 10, พยาบาลร้อยละ 63, เภสัชกรร้อยละ 10 และบุคลากรอื่นร้อยละ 91

2.4. บุคลากรหมุนเวียนเป็นแพทย์ร้อยละ 67, หันแพทย์ร้อยละ 29, พยาบาลร้อยละ 58, เภสัชกรร้อยละ 50 และบุคลากรอื่นร้อยละ 32

2.5. ผู้ให้บริการการตรวจรักษาโรคทั่วไปเป็นแพทย์ร้อยละ 20, พยาบาลร้อยละ 42, เภสัชกรร้อยละ 10, และบุคลากรอื่นร้อยละ 37

2.6. ศูนย์ทุขภาพชุมชนมีผู้รับบริการโดยเฉลี่ยชั่วโมง 40 ราย

2.7. ศูนย์ทุขภาพชุมชนมีค่อนพิเศษร้อยละ 97

2.8. ผู้ดูแลแบบตอนตามเป็นแพทย์ร้อยละ 30, พยาบาลร้อยละ 36, บุคลากรอื่นร้อยละ 60

2.9. บุคลากรที่ให้บริการรักษาผู้ป่วยที่ศูนย์ทุขภาพชุมชนทราบว่า โครงการตักปะกันอุบัติเหตุได้จัดทำและเผยแพร่แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติร้อยละ 70

2.10. ศูนย์ทุขภาพชุมชน ได้รับแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติร้อยละ 45

2.11. ศูนย์ทุขภาพชุมชนเก็บแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติไว้ที่บริเวณที่ให้การรักษาผู้ป่วยร้อยละ 59

2.12. บุคลากรที่ให้บริการผู้ป่วยที่ศูนย์ทุขภาพชุมชนพกพาชุดแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติร้อยละ 40

2.13. บุคลากรที่ให้บริการผู้ป่วยที่ศูนย์ทุขภาพชุมชนได้ความรู้จากการอ่านมากกว่าร้อยละ 30 ปานกลางร้อยละ 65 และน้อยกว่าร้อยละ 5

2.14. สาธารณะแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติตรงกับปัญหาของผู้รับบริการหรือตรงกับความต้องการของผู้ให้บริการร้อยละ 28

2.15. ผู้ที่อ่านและใช้แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติมีความเห็นว่าคุณภาพของสาธารณะแนวทางเวชปฏิบัตินามากกว่าร้อยละ 44, ปานกลางร้อยละ 52, น้อยกว่าร้อยละ 4

2.16. ผู้ที่อ่านและใช้แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติมีความเห็นว่าการเผยแพร่แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติมีความเหมาะสมมากกว่าร้อยละ 46, ปานกลางร้อยละ 40, น้อยกว่าร้อยละ 8, ไม่เหมาะสมร้อยละ 6

2.17. ผู้ที่อ่านและใช้แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติมีความเห็นว่าความตระหนักร่องต่อการใช้แนวทางเวชปฏิบัตินามากกว่าร้อยละ 38, ปานกลางร้อยละ 49, น้อยกว่าร้อยละ 8, ไม่ตระหนักร้อยละ 5

2.18. ผู้ที่อ่านและใช้แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติมีความเห็นว่าประทับใจน้อยของแนวทางเวชปฏิบัตินามากกว่าร้อยละ 55, ปานกลางร้อยละ 40, น้อยกว่าร้อยละ 6

2.19. ผู้ที่อ่านและใช้แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติมีความเห็นว่าควรปรับปรุงแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติร้อยละ 51

ความเห็นเพิ่มเติม

- เรื่องที่มีอยู่ในแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติไม่ครอบคลุมปัญหาที่พบบ่อยที่ศูนย์ทุขภาพชุมชน
- ควรมีแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติของทุกเรื่องที่อยู่ในสิทธิประโยชน์
- ควรมีแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติของเรื่องที่มีการร้องเรียนจากผู้ป่วย

- ควรนิการทบทวนแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติให้กันบ่อยๆ
- แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติจ้านวนมากอาจเกินไป มีการอ้างถูกมากมากต่อการเข้าใจของบุคลากรที่ไม่ใช่แพทย์
- แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติจ้านวนมากมีสาระลึกมาก ประชุกต้องใช้ไม่ได้
- ถูกให้บริการที่ไม่ใช่แพทย์ไม่สามารถดำเนินแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติจ้านวนมากไปได้
- ควรจัดทำเป็นเอกสารแยกแต่ละเรื่องเป็นแบบน่าติดต่อ
- ควรจัดการอบรมการใช้แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติ
- ควรจัดส่งแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติให้สูนซ์สุขภาพชุมชนโดยตรง

ผลการประเมินดังกล่าวสรุปว่า

1. มาตรการการเผยแพร่ (dissemination) แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่เครือข่ายแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติสร้างไปถูกตุ้นเป้าหมาย (ถูกใช้) ดัง ไม่เหมาะสม
2. กลุ่มเป้าหมายของถูกใช้แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่เครือข่ายแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติค่าคะแนน (แพทย์) ไม่ตรงกับถูกใช้จริงในสูนซ์สุขภาพชุมชน
3. สาระของแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติดังไม่ครอบคลุมปัญหาสุขภาพของผู้นารับบริการที่สูนซ์สุขภาพชุมชนและไม่ตรงกับความต้องการของถูกใช้ที่สูนซ์สุขภาพชุมชน
4. สูนซ์สุขภาพชุมชนต้องการแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติประยุกต์แนวโน้มไขยา (clinical policy, clinical protocol) ที่ถูก ละเอียด และเข้าใจได้ง่ายกว่าแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติฉบับเดิมที่ได้รับ
5. รูปแบบของแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติ (เอกสารรวมเป็นแฟ้ม และ compact disc) ดัง ไม่เหมาะสมและไม่สะดวกต่อการใช้

ผลการประเมินดังกล่าวได้นำไปถูกต้องแผนและกระบวนการดำเนินการต่อ ดังนี้

1. สำนักงานหลักประกันสุขภาพแห่งชาติควรสร้างแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติให้สอดคล้องกับปัญหาสุขภาพและความต้องการของถูกใช้
2. สำนักงานหลักประกันสุขภาพแห่งชาติควรปรับรูปแบบของแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติให้เป็นแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติประยุกต์แนวโน้มไขยา (clinical practice policy, clinical practice protocol)
3. สำนักงานหลักประกันสุขภาพแห่งชาติควรเผยแพร่แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่วิธีการที่เหมาะสมอีกขั้น และเผยแพร่ให้ครอบคลุมทุกสูนซ์สุขภาพชุมชนและควรพิจารณาการฝึกอบรมถูกใช้แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติด้วย
4. สำนักงานหลักประกันสุขภาพแห่งชาติให้เห็นความสำคัญในเรื่องนี้และ ได้จัดสรรงบประมาณในการพัฒนาการสร้างและทบทวนแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติ รวมทั้งการเผยแพร่แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติให้เหมาะสมอีกขั้นด้วย

กิจกรรมที่ 3 การพัฒนาทักษะของนักศึกษาปริญญาโทในการเตรียมข้อเสนอโครงการวิจัย

หัวหน้าโครงการในฐานะประธานของเครือข่ายระบบวิทยาศาสตร์นิพนธ์ในประเทศไทยได้บริหารจัดการหลักสูตรระบบวิทยาศาสตร์นิพนธ์สำหรับนักศึกษาปริญญาโทระดับ พ.ศ. 2543 ถึง 2547 โดยนักศึกษาส่วนมากเป็นอาจารย์ของคณะแพทยศาสตร์ต่าง ๆ ในประเทศไทย นักศึกษาในหลักสูตรนี้จะได้รับการพัฒนาทักษะความรู้ความสามารถด้านการวิเคราะห์ประยุกต์ผลงานวิจัย ระเบียบวิธีวิจัย ชีวสถิติ เทคนิคทางการแพทย์ทางรังสุ ทักษะทางการแพทย์ และทักษะในการเตรียมข้อเสนอโครงการวิจัยที่มีคุณภาพและดำเนินการวิจัยคืบก้าวไป

ข้อเสนอโครงการวิจัยในหลักสูตรดังกล่าวที่ได้รับการพัฒนาในระยะเวลาสอง โครงการนี้ จำนวน 37 โครงการดังนี้

- 3.1. The Efficacy and Safety of Fixed-dose Combination of Stavudine plus Lamivudine plus Nevirapine in the Treatment of HIV Infection in Adults
- 3.2. Effectiveness of Post-prandial versus Pre-prandial Home Blood Glucose Monitoring on Glycemic Control in Insulin Treated Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus
- 3.3. Risk factors associated with inguinal hernia in adult male: a case- control study
- 3.4. Oral Ketamine plus Midazolam vs. Oral Chloral hydrate as a sole sedative agent for short diagnostic radiological procedure in pediatric patient: a double-blind, randomized, controlled trial
- 3.5. A comparison of olanzapine with haloperidol in amphetamine induced psychotic disorder : A double blind randomized controlled trial
- 3.6. Prevalence of Peripheral Arterial Disease and its risk factors: a case-control study
- 3.7. The Diagnostic Performance of Quantitative Ultrasound Calcaneus Measurement in Case Finding for Osteoporosis in Thai Post-menopausal Women
- 3.8. Comparison of efficacy between nalbuphine, tramadol and ondansetron in treatment of post-anesthetic shivering after intra-thecal morphine for cesarean delivery
- 3.9. The limited protocol MRI in diagnosis of lumbar disc herniation
- 3.10. Relationship between extubation failure and pulmonary arterial hypertension after corrective congenital heart surgery in children

3.11. A randomized, controlled trial of the efficacy of oral rofecoxib and intramuscular diclofinac sodium for the treatment of post-operative pain after major orthopedic surgery

3.12. A Randomized, controlled trial to compare the effectiveness of nortriptyline plus brief motivation counseling and motivation counseling alone for the treatment of smoking cessation in Thai active smokers

3.13. Thrombin-antithrombin complex and D dimer-for detection of left atrial thrombus in the patients with mitral stenosis

3.14. Retrobulbar versus Circumferential Subconjunctival Anesthesia on the Pain Control during Planned Extracapsular Cataract Extraction with Intraocular Lens Implantation: A Randomized Equivalence Trial

3.15. A double-blind randomized placebo controlled trial to compare the effectiveness of paracervical block plus intrauterine anesthesia and paracervical block alone for pain relief during fractional curettage

3.16. Time to umbilical cord separation compared between two cord-care regimens: triple dye versus triple dye and alcohol

3.17. Effect of Alphacalcidol on muscle strength in ambulatory elderly Thai women who have hypovitaminosis D : A randomised controlled Trial

3.18. Comparison between gabapentin and placebo for postoperative pain reduction in total knee arthroplasty; A randomized controlled trial

3.19. Intravenous parecoxib sodium at PACU decreases morphine consumption for acute postoperative pain following total knee arthroplasty

3.20. Effectiveness of exercise training on asymptomatic cardiac autonomic neuropathy in type 2 diabetes

3.21. The Effectiveness of Shortwave Diathermy in Osteoarthritic Knee: A Randomized Controlled Trial

3.22.. Effectiveness of lumbar traction with routine conservative treatment in acute herniated disc syndrome

3.23. Efficacy of low dose oral erythromycin for treatment of feeding intolerance in preterm infants: a randomized controlled trial

3.24. Association between bcl-2 expression and tumor recurrence in cervical cancer

3.25. The Efficacy of Ginger in Prevention of Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting after Intrathecal Morphine

3.26. Effect of timing of laparoscopic cholecystectomy on the success or failure of acute gallstone colic or acute cholecystitis: A prospective cohort study

3.27. A Randomised Controlled Trial of The Effectiveness of The Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug in The Treatment of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

3.28. Source of stress in Chulalongkorn University dental students

3.29. Comparison of Two Bowel Preparations for Colonoscopy : Senna versus Sodium Phosphate Solution : A Double-Blind study

3.30. Health Consequence of sexual assault Victims at the Police General Hospital, Thailand

3.31. A Randomized Controlled Trial to Compare Postoperative Pain after Fistulotomy alone and Fistulotomy with Marsupialization for the Treatment of Simple Fistula in ano

3.32. Association Factors of Perioperative Myocardial Infarction in Adult Non-cardiac Operation, 2002 - 2003

3.33. Postoperative Throat Discomfort after Using LMA- ProSeal[™] Versus Profile Soft-Seal Cuff[™] for Anesthesia in Ambulatory Gynecologic Laparoscopy

3.34. A Randomized placebo Controlled Trial Comparing the Effectiveness of Tamsulosin in Women with Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms

3.35. Diagnosis Helicobacter Pylori by re-used Pronto Dye Test

3.36. Validity and Reliability of Girth Measurement (Circumference Measurement) for Calculating Residual Limb Volume in Below Knee Amputees

3.37. The Effectiveness and Safety of Intra-articular Injection of Actovegin in Osteoarthritis of the Knee: A Phase II Clinical Trial

กิจกรรมที่ 4 และ 5 การนำเสนอวิจัยไปที่ประชุมและการสร้างผลงานวิจัย

ทั่วหน้าโครงการและผู้ร่วมโครงการได้สร้างความรู้ที่ถูกต้องและเกี่ยวข้องกับปัญหาสุขภาพของประเทศไทยเพื่อนำมาเผยแพร่และประยุกต์ใช้ในสังคมของไทยโดยและการบริการสุขภาพที่อิงหลักฐานอันจะนำไปสู่การบริการสุขภาพที่ปลอดภัย มีประสิทธิผล คุ้มค่า และเป็นธรรม หากความรู้ที่จำเป็นยังไม่มี หรือมิได้ไม่เพียงพอหรือไม่เหมาะสม ทั่วหน้าโครงการและผู้ร่วมโครงการก็จะค้าเนินการวิจัยเพื่อให้ได้ความรู้ที่ถูกต้องและเหมาะสมต่อการนำเสนอประยุกต์ใช้

ด้วยย่างของกิจกรรมดังกล่าวจำนวน 5 เรื่องได้แก่

4 & 5.1. การรักษาผู้ป่วยที่เป็นโรคหัวด้วยยาต้านจุลชีพ

การสำรวจการรักษาผู้ป่วยกับโรคหัวด้วยยาต้านจุลชีพที่เป็นโรคหัวซึ่งเกือบทั้งหมดเกิดจากติดเชื้อไวรัสพบว่ามีการใช้ยาต้านจุลชีพมากถึงร้อยละ 80 ในปี พ.ศ. 2544 การใช้ยาต้านจุลชีพที่มากเกินความจำเป็นก่อให้เกิดความถูกยเสียหายเพียงร้อยละ 80 ของผู้ป่วยที่ต้องห้ามใช้ยาต้านจุลชีพ และที่สำคัญคือเป็นการซักน้ำให้เชื้อตื้อต่อยาต้านจุลชีพ หัวหน้าโครงการและผู้ร่วมโครงการเชิงพยาบาลสามารถทราบถึงการใช้ยาต้านจุลชีพในการรักษาโรคหัวในผู้ป่วยโดยการน้ำแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติอิงหลักฐาน (evidence-based practice guideline) ที่มีคุณภาพดีมากประทับใจสำหรับแพทย์ทั่วไปใช้เป็นแนวทางในการสูญเสียรักษาผู้ป่วยที่เป็นหัวด้วยแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติอิงหลักฐานนี้รายงานไว้ในวารสาร Ann Intern Med 2001; 134: 479 - 529 โดยหัวหน้าโครงการและผู้ร่วมโครงการได้เครื่องแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติประเพณี clinical practice protocol และเพื่อเพิ่มแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติตั้งกล่าวกับแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติที่รายงานอยู่ในวารสาร Ann Intern Med 2001; 134: 479 - 529 ไปอ้างแพทย์อุ่นเป้าหมายโดยใช้กระบวนการ Interactive Educational Meeting แล้วประเมินอัตราการใช้ยาต้านจุลชีพของแพทย์อุ่นเป้าหมายจากร้อยละ 76 เหลือร้อยละ 44 โดยผู้ป่วยโรคหัวลดลงไม่ได้รับยาต้านจุลชีพที่ไม่เกิดผลเสีย รายละเอียดของภารกิจนี้อยู่ในวารสาร International Journal of Infectious Diseases 2004; 8: 47-51

ผลการศึกษาค้างกล่าวมีประกายดังนี้

- หน่วยประภันตั้งคุณ โรงพยาบาลศิริราช ได้นำผลการวิจัยนี้ไปใช้เป็นนโยบายสำหรับแพทย์ที่ให้บริการผู้ป่วยประภันตั้งคุณดังนี้
 - โรงพยาบาลศิริราชประหัติรายจ่ายจากยาต้านจุลชีพที่ไม่จำเป็นได้ปีละ 144,000 บาท
 - ผู้รับบริการมีโอกาสเสี่ยงต่อผลข้างเคียงของยาต้านจุลชีพลดลง
 - การตื้อตัวของเชื้อแบคทีเรียน้ำจะลดลง
- โรงพยาบาลทุกแห่งได้นำแนวทางการปฏิบัติรักษาไปใช้สำหรับให้บริการแก่ผู้ป่วยแล้ว

4 & 5.2. การเปลี่ยนถ่ายของรับปั๊มสูบในผู้ป่วยที่ต้องการสวนปั๊มสูบระหว่างชั้น

ผู้ป่วยที่รับให้รักษาในโรงพยาบาลประมาณร้อยละ 10 - 20 จะได้รับการคายสวนปั๊มสูบระหว่างชั้น ปั๊มสูบซึ่งจำเป็นต้องมีอยู่รองรับปั๊มสูบ แนวทางปฏิบัติของฝ่ายพยาบาลของโรงพยาบาลศิริราชระบุว่าควรเปลี่ยนถ่ายของรับปั๊มสูบในผู้ป่วยที่คายสวนปั๊มสูบระหว่างชั้นทุก 3 วัน ในขณะที่งานควบคุมโรคติดเชื้อในโรงพยาบาลแนะนำว่าไม่ควรกำหนดระยะเวลาการเปลี่ยนถ่ายของรับปั๊มสูบที่แน่นอน ผู้บริหารคณภาพแพทย์ศิริราชพยายามจึงให้หัวหน้าโครงการประสานงานกับผู้ที่ช่วยในการพิจารณาแนวทางปฏิบัติในเรื่องนี้ การศึกษาความรู้และข้อมูลที่มีอยู่แล้วพบว่าความรู้และข้อมูลเหล่านี้ในสามารถนำมาใช้เป็นแนวทางปฏิบัติได้และข้อมูลส่วนมากเป็นเพียงความ

เห็น การเปลี่ยนถ่ายรองรับปั๊สสาระแต่ละครั้งจะเพิ่งต่อการติดเชื้อ ถ้าเปลี่ยนค่าใช้จ่าย และเพิ่มขยะพลาสติก ดังนั้นหัวหน้าโครงการและผู้ร่วมโครงการจึงได้ประสานงานกับผู้เกี่ยวข้องดำเนินการวิจัยเบริญเพื่อบรรทว่าการเปลี่ยนถ่ายรองรับปั๊สสาระในผู้ป่วยที่ค่าถ่ายสารปั๊สสาระจะสั้นทุก 3 วัน คับการเปลี่ยนเมื่อจำเป็นซึ่งพบว่าอุบัติการของค่าติดเชื้อในผู้ป่วยทั้ง 2 กลุ่มไม่แตกต่างกัน

รายละเอียดของการศึกษานี้อยู่ในวารสาร American Journal of Infection Control 2003; 31: 9-12

ผลการศึกษาดังกล่าวมีประวัติชน ดังนี้

- โรงพยาบาลศิริราช ได้นำผลการวิจัยนี้ไปใช้เป็นนโยบายดังเดิมกุมภาพันธ์ พ.ศ.2545 โดยนโยบายนี้ไม่เกิด โภนต่อผู้ป่วยเพื่อความอุตสาหกรรมการเกิดการติดเชื้อที่ระบบปั๊สสาระจาก การฟื้นฟู ของศูนย์ควบคุมโรคติดเชื้อในโรงพยาบาลไม่เพิ่มขึ้น

- จากการสำรวจพบว่าผู้ป่วยที่รับให้รักษาในโรงพยาบาลศิริราชประมาณปีละ 80,000 ราย มีผู้ที่ใส่ถ่ายสารปั๊สสาระประมาณ 16,000 ราย โดยมีระยะเวลาการค่าถ่ายสารปั๊สสาระเฉลี่ยประมาณ 9 วัน ดังนั้นการนำเอาผลงานวิจัยนี้ไปประยุกต์ใช้จะประหัตถ่ายรองรับปั๊สสาระ ได้รายละ 3 ถุง โดยถ่ายรองรับปั๊สสาระราคาถุงละ 20 บาท การเปลี่ยนถ่ายรองรับปั๊สสาระใช้เวลาเฉลี่ยประมาณ 5 นาที และถ่ายรองรับปั๊สสาระพัสดุกมีน้ำหนักถุงละ 76 กรัม ดังนั้นโรงพยาบาลศิริราชประหัตถ่ายชั้บ ชา กถ่ายรองรับปั๊สสาระ ได้ปีละ 1 ล้านบาท โรงพยาบาลศิริราชประหัตถ่ายบุคลากรในการเปลี่ยนถ่ายรองรับปั๊สสาระ ได้ปีละ 4,000 ชั่วโมง และ โรงพยาบาลศิริราชสามารถลดค่าวัสดุและพลาสติก ของถุงรองรับปั๊สสาระ ได้ปีละ 3,600 กิโลกรัม

- คณะกรรมการวิจัยได้เห็นชอบผลงานวิจัยนี้ไปยังสถาบันพยาบาลอื่น ๆ แล้วคาดว่าหากสถาบันพยาบาลอื่นนำผลงานวิจัยนี้ไปประยุกต์ใช้น่าจะมีผลกระทบมากกว่านี้มาก

4 & 5.3. การเปลี่ยนน้ำยา Glutaraldehyde สำหรับท่าถ่ายเชื้อที่ก่อตัวของครัวภัยในระบบการหายใจและระบบทางเดินอาหาร

glutaraldehyde เป็นน้ำยาท่าถ่ายเชื้อที่สำคัญสำหรับกต้องที่ใช้ต่อผู้ป่วยร่วงกายสำหรับการตรวจวินิจฉัย แนวปฏิบัติการเปลี่ยน glutaraldehyde ของโรงพยาบาลศิริราชคือเปลี่ยนน้ำยาเมื่อ 3 อาทิตย์ หรือเมื่อครบ 21 วันซึ่งแนวปฏิบัติดังกล่าวอาจเกิดผลเสีย 2 ประการ คือ หากน้ำยาที่บุนหรือเมื่อครบ 21 วันไม่มีฤทธิ์ในการท่าถ่ายเชื้อแล้ว ผู้ป่วยอาจมีการติดเชื้อได้ หากน้ำยาที่บุนหรือเมื่อครบ 21 วันดังนี้ฤทธิ์ในการท่าถ่ายเชื้ออยู่ การเปลี่ยนน้ำยาที่เป็นการถันเปลี่ยนค่าใช้จ่าย ดังนั้น หัวหน้าโครงการและผู้ร่วมโครงการจึงได้ประสานงานกับผู้เกี่ยวข้องดำเนินการศึกษาการนำแทนกระดาษสำหรับวัสดุปริมาณสารสำคัญของน้ำยา glutaraldehyde มาใช้เป็นแนวทางในการเปลี่ยนน้ำยา โดยประเมินฤทธิ์การท่าถ่ายเชื้อและความคุ้นค่าของวิธีการดังกล่าวพบว่าน้ำยา glutaraldehyde ณ วันที่มีการเปลี่ยนน้ำยาที่บุนหรือเมื่อครบ 21 วัน ให้ออกงานหากายสัปดาห์ รายละเอียดของการศึกษานี้อยู่ในวารสาร J Med Assoc Thailand 2002; 85: 1164-8

ผลการศึกษาดังกล่าวมีประวัติชน ดังนี้

- โรงพยาบาลต้องริเริ่มให้นำผลการวิจัยนี้ไปใช้เป็นนโยบายตั้งแต่เดือนกุมภาพันธ์ พ.ศ. 2545
- โรงพยาบาลต้องริเริ่มประหัติครายช้ำจากน้ำชา glutaraldehyde ให้ปีละ 400,000 บาท
- คณบดีวิจัยให้เมยแพร่ผลงานวิจัยนี้ไปยังสถานพยาบาลอื่น ๆ แล้วคาดว่าหากสถานพยาบาลอื่นนำผลงานวิจัยนี้ไปประยุกต์ใช้น่าจะมีผลกระทบมากกว่านี้มาก

4 & 5.4. การรักษาผู้ป่วยกันคนในระบบปรเวทัลลังกันที่ติดเชื้อ HIV ด้วยยาต้านไวรัสเอดส์

ผลักดันจากการวิจัยแต่คงว่าผู้ป่วยที่ติดเชื้อ HIV หากได้รับการรักษาด้วยยาต้านไวรัส เอดส์จะสามารถลดลง โอกาสเกิดการติดเชื้อจวยไอย่างลดลงคราวๆ เพิ่มความภาระชีวิต และยังเป็นการ รักษาที่ศูนย์ค่าโดยเฉลี่ยอย่างอิ่มเมื่อยาต้านไวรัสลดลงมาก แนวทางเวชปฏิบัติทั่วไปร่วม ทั้งแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติของกระทรวงสาธารณสุขและราชวิทยาลัยอาชุรแพทย์แห่งประเทศไทยแนะนำให้รักษาผู้ป่วยที่ติดเชื้อ HIV ด้วยยาต้านไวรัสลดลงเมื่อยาต้านไวรัสลดลง นักวิจัยได้รับ การติดเชื้อจวยไอย่าง หรือนิเชกต์ CD4 น้อยกว่า 200 แค่ผู้ป่วยส่วนมากในประเทศไทยได้รับ การรักษาด้วยยาต้านไวรัสลดลงทั้งผู้ประกันตนในระบบประกันสังคมด้วยทั้งๆ ที่คุณก่ออุบัติ ด้องเข้ามาเป็นประกันให้ก่ออุบัติในระบบประกันสังคมทุกเดือน หัวหน้าโครงการวิจัยพยาบาลที่จะทำให้สู้ บริหารของสำนักงานประกันสังคมเห็นความสำคัญของการให้บริการนี้แก่ผู้ประกันตนโดยการ ประสานกับนักวิจัยและหน่วยงานที่เกี่ยวข้องศึกษาวิจัย 3 เรื่อง ได้แก่

1. การศึกษาความคุ้มค่าของการรักษาผู้ป่วยกับคนกับโรงพยาบาลพิริราชที่ติดเชื้อ HIV ด้วยยาต้านไวรัสโดยตัวชี้งี้เป็นว่าการรักษาต้องกล่าวว่าจะดีกันต่อ รวมจะเดินทางของความที่คนติดเชื้อในวงการ

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2. การศึกษาประสิทธิผลและความปลอดภัยของยา GPO-vir ซึ่งเป็นยาพัฒนาของ Stavudine และ Lamivudine และ Nevirapine อยู่ในเม็ดเดียวกันและมีราคาถูกถูกมากเท่าเดือนละ 1,200 บาทซึ่งพบว่าการรักษาด้วยยาดังกล่าวมีความปลอดภัยและมีประสิทธิผลดีในศูนย์ป่วยต่างมาก รายละเอียดของการศึกษานี้อยู่ในระหว่างการพิพันพิพิธภัณฑ์ J Med Assoc Thai

3. การวิจัยระบบการบริหารจัดการค่าใช้จ่ายในการบริการผู้ประกันตนติดเชื้อ HIV ผู้ชายด้านไวรัสอเลกซ์โดยศึกษาสถานการณ์ของการป่วยและการตายจากโรคติดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ของผู้ประกันตนในระบบประกันสังคมในปี พ.ศ. 2545 พบว่าจำนวนผู้ประกันตนติดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ที่มารับบริการที่สถานพยาบาลในโครงการประกันสังคมมีจำนวน 9,595 ราย (ร้อยละ 0.14 ของผู้ประกันตน) โดยเป็นผู้ป่วยชายร้อยละ 57 และเมียหญิงร้อยละ 34 ปี ผู้ป่วยส่วนมากมีอาการของโรคอเลกซ์ มีการติดเชื้อเช่นเชื้อไวรัส และมีจำนวนเซลล์ CD4 น้อยกว่า 200 เซลล์ต่อ ลิตร. นน. โดยผู้ป่วยร้อยละ 86.4 มีเชื้อง่ายเช่นการรักษาด้านไวรัสอเลกซ์ ผู้ประกันตนติดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ร้อยละ 62.5 มีการติดเชื้อเช่นเชื้อไวรัสที่พบบ่อยเช่นเชื้อไวรัส โรค, ปอดอักเสบ *Pneumocystis*, โรคติดเชื้อ *Candida spp.*, เมือกในสมองอักเสบจากเชื้อ *Cryptococcus spp.*, โรคติดเชื้อ *cytomegalovirus*, *toxoplasmosis*, *penicilliosis marneffei* และผู้ประกันตนติดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS เป็นเชื้อไวรัสร้อยละ 7.8

ลักษณะการให้บริการของสถานพยาบาลในโครงการประกันสังคมต่อผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ซึ่งไม่เหมาะสมทั้งในด้านของการให้การรักษาด้วยยาต้านไวรัสตอคต์ซึ่งมีเพียงร้อยละ 12.5 เท่านั้น ชนิดของยาต้านไวรัสตอคต์ การป้องกันการติดเชื้อจวบ��อการ และการคิดความประเมินผลการรักษา

ค่าใช้จ่ายในการรักษาผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ของสถานพยาบาลทุกแห่งรวมเป็นเงินประมาณ 215 ล้านบาทในปี พ.ศ. 2545 และสถานพยาบาลเหล่านี้ได้รับค่าตอบแทนจากสำนักงานประกันสังคมในการอุดหนุนรักษาผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS เพียง 126 ล้านบาท

การคาดประมาณจำนวนผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS จากฐานประชากรกลุ่มอายุมากกว่า 15 ปี ใน พ.ศ. 2546 พบว่าจำนวนผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS มีประมาณ 130,000 ราย และมีผู้สนใจได้รับการรักษาด้วยยาต้านไวรัสตอคต์ประมาณ 13,000 ราย และจำนวนผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ที่สนใจได้รับยาต้านไวรัสตอคต์เพิ่มขึ้นเรื่อยๆ จนสูงสุดประมาณ 29,900 ราย ในปี พ.ศ. 2551

สำนักงานประกันสังคมควรสนับสนุนให้สถานพยาบาลรักษาผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ด้วยยาต้านไวรัสตอคต์ที่เหมาะสม การคาดประมาณค่าใช้จ่ายสำหรับการรักษาผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ด้วยยาต้านไวรัสตอคต์ที่เหมาะสมในปี พ.ศ. 2547 พบว่ามีบุคลากรประมาณ 153 ล้านบาท (รักษาเฉพาะผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ที่สามารถรักษาได้ด้วย GPO-vir) ถึง 577 ล้านบาท (รักษาผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ทุกรายรวมทั้งผู้ที่ไม่เป็นและผู้ที่ติดเชื้อต่อยาด้วย) โดยค่าใช้จ่ายสำหรับการรักษาผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ด้วยยาต้านไวรัสตอคต์จะมีบุคลากรประมาณ 353 ล้านบาท (รักษาเฉพาะผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ที่สามารถรักษาได้ด้วย GPO-vir) ถึง 1,327 ล้านบาท (รักษาผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ทุกรายรวมทั้งผู้ที่ไม่เป็นและผู้ที่ติดเชื้อต่อยาด้วย) ในปี พ.ศ. 2551

หากสำนักงานประกันสังคมเห็นสมควรสนับสนุนให้สถานพยาบาลรักษาผู้ประกันตนคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS ด้วยยาต้านไวรัสตอคต์ที่เหมาะสม นอกจากจะต้องเครียบงบประมาณตั้งก่อตัวแล้ว สำนักงานประกันสังคมจะต้องเครียบงบโครงการสร้างและระบบการบริหารจัดการเกี่ยวกับการให้บริการ การเพิ่มศูนย์ทักษะเกี่ยวกับการรักษาผู้ป่วยด้วยยาต้านไวรัสตอคต์ของผู้ให้บริการ การเบิกจ่ายเงินชดเชยหรือยาต้านไวรัสตอคต์ การเบิกจ่ายเงินชดเชย การคิดความประเมินผลโครงการเพื่อนำมาใช้เป็นแนวทางในการพัฒนาโครงการตั้งแต่ปีต่อๆ ไป รวมทั้งการผนองค์ให้ผู้ประกันตนสำนักงานได้รับความสำาคัญของการป้องกันโรคคิดเชื้อ HIV/AIDS โดยหลักสูตรทุกตัวเรียนเน้นและการถ่ายทอดเชื้อไปยังผู้อื่นด้วย

ผลการศึกษาดังกล่าวมีประโยชน์และมีผลกระทบดังนี้

- หัวหน้าโครงการ ได้นำเสนอผลงานวิจัยเหล่านี้ต่อคณะกรรมการแพทย์ สำนักงานประกันสังคม กระทรวงแรงงานและทวารติดการสังคม เมื่อเดือนกันยายน พ.ศ. 2546 และคณะกรรมการ

แพทย์มีมติที่จะให้การรักษาผู้ป่วยกันคนที่ติดเชื้อ HIV ด้วยยาด้านไวรัสตอคต์ที่เหมาะสมดังแต่เดือน
มกราคม พ.ศ. 2547 ตามที่หัวหน้าโครงการเสนอ แต่การเริ่มนั้นจะต้องดูแล้วว่าต้องใช้เวลา ดังนี้
โครงการนี้จึงได้เริ่มนี้เมื่อเดือนสิงหาคม พ.ศ. 2547

-ผู้ป่วยกันคนที่ติดเชื้อ HIV ได้รับยาด้านไวรัสตอคต์ที่เหมาะสมดังแต่เดือนสิงหาคม พ.ศ.
2547 ซึ่งจะมีผลทำให้การป่วยจาก การติดเชื้อจะหายโดย自然และจากไวรัส HIV ถัดไป ด้วยราบทดลอง
คุณภาพชีวิคของผู้ป่วยกันคนดังนี้ ผลผลิตที่ได้จากผู้ป่วยกันคนก่อตุ้นนี้มีมากที่สุด

-การรักษาพยาบาลผู้ป่วยกันคนที่ติดเชื้อ HIV มีความเป็นธรรม

-องค์การเภสัชกรรมได้ใช้ผลงานวิจัย เรื่อง The efficacy and Safety of Fixed-Dose

Combination of Stavudine plus Lamivudine plus Nevirapine (GPO-vir) in the Treatment of HIV Infection in Adults เป็นหลักฐานสำคัญประกอบการเขียนทะเบียนยา GPO-vir ที่สำนักงานคณะกรรมการอาหารและยา กระทรวงสาธารณสุขออกเมื่อ พ.ศ. 2546

4 & 5.5. การรักษาโรคเมษาหวานด้วยยาของเพลค

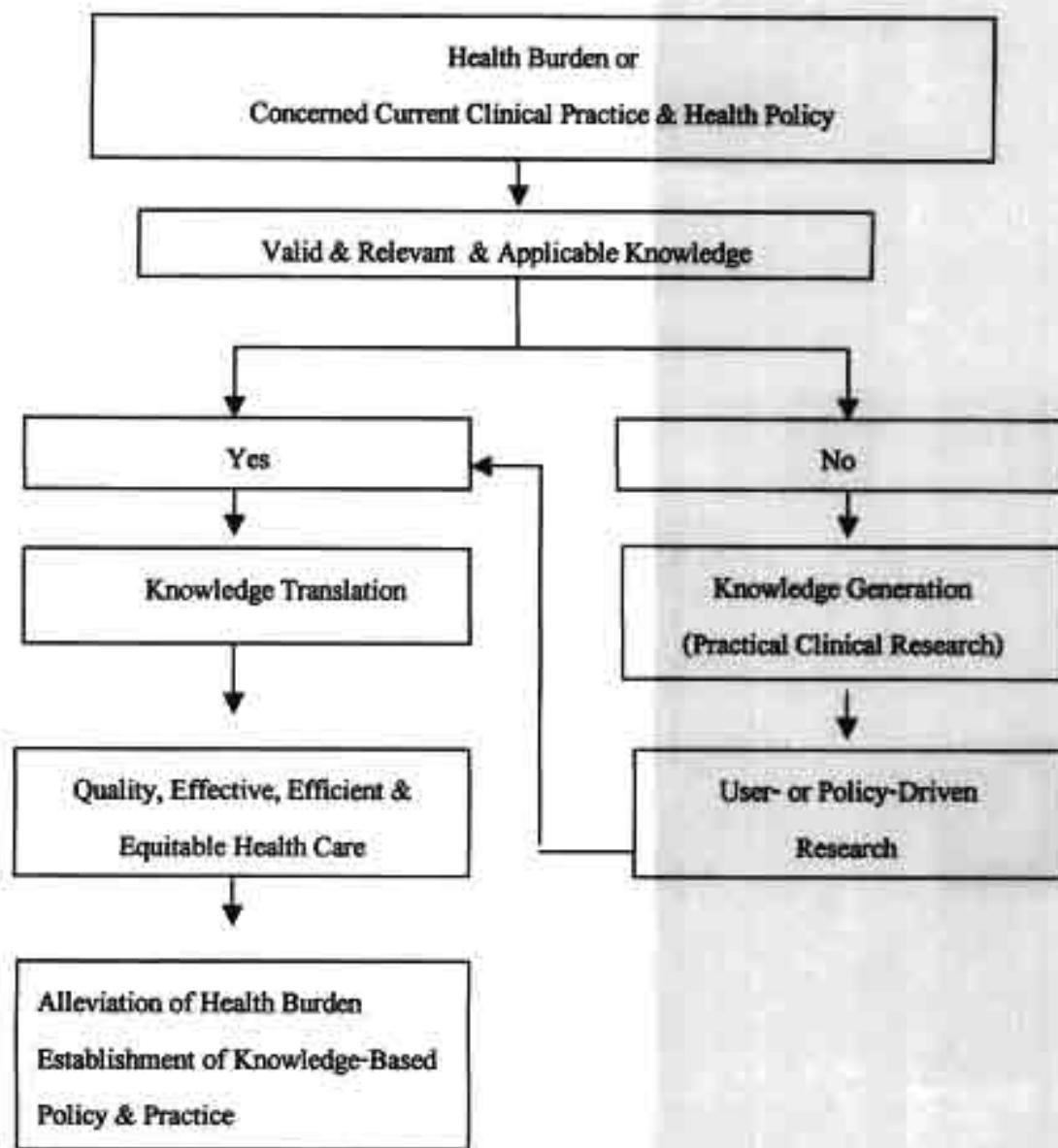
ผู้ป่วยโรคเมษาหวานจำนวนมากในประเทศไทยได้รับการรักษาด้วยยาของเพลค และผลิต
กัพท์บอร์เพลคแห่งบรรจุยาแคปซูลกึ่งเจลที่มีเจลน้ำเยื่อย่างแพร์ฟลามโดยยังทราบด้วยว่าสามารถรักษาโรค
เมษาหวานได้ การศึกษาข้อมูลที่ว่าโดยพหุทักษรที่แสดงว่าของเพลคกระดับน้ำค่าต้นในเดือนได้
เป็นเพียงหลักฐานที่ได้จากการศึกษาในสัตว์ทดลองเท่านั้นซึ่งไม่สามารถนำมาใช้เป็นหลักฐานที่
แสดงถึงประสิทธิภาพของของเพลคในการรักษาโรคเมษาหวานในคนได้ ดังนั้นหัวหน้าโครงการและ
ผู้ร่วมโครงการจึงประสานงานกับนักวิจัยและหน่วยงานที่เกี่ยวข้องศึกษาประสิทธิภาพของของเพลค
สำหรับการรักษาเสริมในผู้ป่วยเมษาหวานที่ไม่ตอบสนองต่อการรักษาด้วยยาแผนปัจจุบันสำหรับลด
ระดับน้ำค่าต้นในเดือนซึ่งพบว่าของเพลคไม่สามารถลดระดับน้ำค่าต้นในเดือนในผู้ป่วยเมษาหวานก่อตุ้น
นี้ได้ นอกจากของเพลคจะไม่มีผลต่อระดับน้ำค่าต้นในเดือนแล้ว ร้อยละ 10 ของผู้ป่วยที่ได้รับ
ของเพลคเป็นผลข้างเคียงที่ดับ รายละเอียดของการศึกษาอยู่ในวารสาร J Med Assoc Thai. 2004; 87:
543-6

ผลการศึกษาดังกล่าวมีประโยชน์และผลลัพธ์ดังนี้

-ได้เพียงแค่พัฒนาวิจัยนี้ผ่านทางสื่อต่างๆ เพื่อเดือนให้ผู้ป่วยโรคเมษาหวานทราบว่าการ
บริโภคของเพลคในขนาดสูงเพื่อรักษาโรคเมษาหวานนั้นไม่มีประโยชน์และอาจเป็นโทษต่อตัวได้

นอกจากด้วยย่างดังกล่าวข้างต้นที่ 5 เรื่องแล้ว หัวหน้าโครงการและผู้ร่วมโครงการกำลัง
ดำเนินการโครงการในแนวทางดังกล่าวอีกด้วยเรื่อง

หากประสบการณ์ดังกล่าว หัวหน้าโครงการจึงได้เสนอแผนภูมิการจัดการความรู้ที่จะนำไปสู่งานปฏิบัติจริงหลักฐานในประเทศไทย ดังนี้



6. ความเชื่อมโยงกับองค์กรระหว่างประเทศด้านการจัดการความรู้

6.1. หัวหน้าโครงการได้ร่วมในโครงการสำรวจนโยบาย ความคาดหวัง กิจกรรมและการปฏิบัติขององค์กรต้นแบบที่มุ่งการวิจัยเกี่ยวกับการนำผลงานวิจัยไปใช้ประโยชน์ โครงการนี้เป็นโครงการระดับนานาชาติที่ดำเนินการใน 10 ประเทศ ได้แก่ ออสเตรเลีย บริเตนิค แคนาดา โคลอมเบีย ชิลี ปีปีนัง ฟิลิปปินส์ อังกฤษ สาธารณรัฐไทย และประเทศไทยโดยใช้วิธีการสำรวจเดิมทั้งหมด

ในทุกประเทศเพื่อนำเสนอผลการสำรวจขนาดเคราะห์เปรียบเทียบกัน โครงการนี้อยู่ในระหว่างการดำเนินการ

6.2. หัวหน้าโครงการได้ร่วมในโครงการ Knowledge Plus Project ซึ่งเป็นโครงการของ International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLEN) โครงการนี้เป็นโครงการวิจัยร่วมระหว่าง 4 ประเทศ คือ ประเทศไทย อินเดีย ฟิลิปปินส์ และ โคลอมเบีย โครงการนี้ศักดิ์สิทธิ์ วิเคราะห์ประเมินความรู้ที่เกี่ยวข้องกับปัญหาดุษภัยที่สำคัญของประเทศไทยกำลังพัฒนาทั้งด้านประเทศไทย ความปลอดภัย ความคุ้นค่า ความเสมอภาค และความหมายตามของแต่ละประเทศของมาตรการต่างๆ แล้วสังเคราะห์ความรู้ดังกล่าวเป็นแนวทางเวชปฏิบัติเพื่อนำมาประยุกต์ใช้เป็นนโยบายและการบริการดุษภัยในประเทศไทย โครงการนี้อยู่ในระหว่างการดำเนินการ

ภาคผนวก

ภาคผนวก 1 รายงานคณะกรรมการอั้กและทีบริการโครงการ

ผู้ร่วมโครงการอั้ก

รองศาสตราจารย์แพทย์หญิงอุบิน ศุภารัตน์กุล คณะแพทยศาสตร์ศิริราชพยาบาล
รองศาสตราจารย์แพทย์หญิงอุวรรณย์ ตุรเกรษีวงศ์ คณะแพทยศาสตร์ศิริราชพยาบาล
ผู้ช่วยศาสตราจารย์นายแพทย์อนุวัฒน์ กิริณุรงค์ คณะแพทยศาสตร์ศิริราชพยาบาล
ผู้ช่วยศาสตราจารย์แพทย์หญิงกาญจน์ จันทร์สุง คณะแพทยศาสตร์วิภาวดีรังสิต
รองศาสตราจารย์แพทย์หญิงรัตน์ พันธ์พานิช คณะแพทยศาสตร์วิภาวดีรังสิต
นายแพทย์อุรุพัฒน์ ตุนกรธรรม วิทยาลัยแพทยศาสตร์โรงพยาบาลรามาธิบดี

ทีบริการโครงการ

ศาสตราจารย์นายแพทย์สาริค วรรณแสง คณะแพทยศาสตร์ศิริราชพยาบาล

Professor Gordon H Guyatt Mc. Master University, Canada

ภาคผนวก 2 รางวัลผลงานวิจัย

1. รางวัลที่ 1 จากการประกวดผลงานวิจัยแพทย์ประจำบ้าน ในการประกันวิชาการประจำปี 2545
ของราชวิทยาลัยอายุรแพทย์แห่งประเทศไทยสำหรับผลงานวิจัย เรื่อง Incidence of urinary tract infection in short term indwelling urethral catheter in hospitalized patients: A comparison between a 3-day urinary drainage bag change and no change regimen
2. รางวัลที่ 2 จากการประกวดผลงานวิจัยแพทย์ประจำบ้าน ในการประกันวิชาการประจำปี 2545
ของราชวิทยาลัยอายุรแพทย์แห่งประเทศไทยสำหรับผลงานวิจัย เรื่อง Efficiency of the Glutaraldehyde Test Strip for Monitoring the concentration of Glutaraldehyde in Reused Solutions for Disinfecting Endoscopes

ภาคผนวก 3 ผลงานวิจัยที่ได้รับการสนับสนุนจากทุนบริจัยจากโถงระดับพิเศษที่มีผลลัพธ์ดีเยี่ยม

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Risk Factors for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Bacteremia in Thai Patients†

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Abstract

A case control study to determine the risk factors for *P. aeruginosa* bacteremia was conducted in patients admitted to Siriraj Hospital in 1998.

The case group consisted of 65 patients with *P. aeruginosa* bacteremia. There were 3 control groups, 65 patients with *E. coli* bacteremia, 64 patients with *S. aureus* bacteremia and 65 patients without bacteremia. Demographic information and potential risk factors i.e. type of infection, associated diseases/conditions, procedures/surgery, previous/current use of antibiotics and previous/current use of immunosuppressive/cytotoxic agents were extracted from the patients' medical records and compared. Univariate analysis revealed that the factors associated with *P. aeruginosa* bacteremia were infections acquired while hospitalized, hematologic malignancy, neutropenia, COPD, antibiotic receivers, cytotoxic agents receivers. However, multivariate analysis revealed that only hematologic malignancy, infections acquired while hospitalized and previous use of parenteral antibiotics were risk factors for *P. aeruginosa* bacteremia.

Key word : *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Bacteremia, Risk Factor

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† This study was presented at the 17th Annual Meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of Thailand in April 2001 and received an award.

Table 1. Comparative data of the patients in 4 groups.

Character	<i>P. aeruginosa</i> bacteremia (N=65) %	<i>E. coli</i> bacteremia (N=65) %	<i>S. aureus</i> bacteremia (N=64) %	No bacteremia (N=65) %	P
Male	58	45	67	51	0.1
Mean age (years)	33	47	44	35	0.01
Nosocomial infections	86	47	58		<0.001
Neutropenia	42	17	11	11	<0.001
Hematologic malignancy	45	16	14	11	<0.001
Solid tumor	17	20	9	11	0.2
HIV/AIDS	3	9	11	3	0.2
Chronic Renal Failure	9	9	8	6	0.9
COPD	8	5	0	0	0.03
Congestive Heart Failure	14	11	14	6	0.5
Cirrhosis	2	13	3	2	0.01
Thalassemia	3	2	0	8	0.1
Prior use of antibiotics	69	36	34	40	<0.001
Cytotoxic agents	31	30	34	22	0.004
Surgery	22	9	11	22	0.1
Procedures	42	30	41	31	0.2
Endotracheal intubation	14	8	9	9	0.7
intravenous devices	8	3	20	3	<0.001
Urinary catheter	19	19	22	17	0.2
Sites of infections					
Respiratory	26	19	32		0.3
Urinary	14	39	8		<0.001
Gastrointestinal	8	28	3		<0.001
Skin	28	11	28		0.01
Undetermined	34	11	20		<0.001

colonized on the skin. Studies concerning risk factors for *P. aeruginosa* bacteremia have been reported (2, 3, 9-12). All of them are descriptive studies and they found advanced age, hematologic malignancy, neutropenia, diabetes mellitus, organ transplantation, severe burns, diffuse dermatitis, AIDS, corticosteroid therapy, antibiotic therapy, intravascular devices, surgery, trauma, urinary tract instrumentation and infections acquired while hospitalized were associated with *P. aeruginosa* bacteremia. The authors' descriptive results of patients with *P. aeruginosa* bacteremia also observed some of the aforementioned conditions. However, the present study attempted to identify risk factors by using a case control study design which is considered a more appropriate design for studying the risk factors. Three groups of control patients were used in order to be certain that the risk factors asso-

ciated with *P. aeruginosa* bacteremia were really specific for *P. aeruginosa*. The authors found that only hematologic malignancy, previous use of parenteral antibiotics and nosocomial infections were risk factors for *P. aeruginosa* bacteremia in multivariate analysis. Therefore, Thai patients with hematologic malignancy should be the target population for interventions aimed to prevent *P. aeruginosa* bacteremia including *P. aeruginosa* vaccine.

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ปัจจัยเสี่ยงของการติดเชื้อในกระแสเลือดจาก *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*†

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ในประเทศไทยการติดเชื้อเป็นปัจจัยเสี่ยงในการเกิดภาวะติดเชื้อในกระแสเลือดจาก *P. aeruginosa* สาเหตุการณ์นี้มี
ชนิด case control ในผู้ป่วยที่รับการรักษาในโรงพยาบาลกรุงเทพในปี พ.ศ. 2541 ไม่ว่าคุณ "case" คือผู้ป่วย 65 คนที่มีการ
ติดเชื้อในกระแสเลือดจาก *P. aeruginosa*, จำนวนคุณ "control" คือ 3 ปี ให้คุณ ผู้ป่วย 65 คนที่ไม่ติดเชื้อในกระแสเลือด
จาก *P. aeruginosa*, ผู้ป่วย 64 คนที่มีการติดเชื้อในกระแสเลือดจาก *S. aureus* และผู้ป่วย 65 คนที่ไม่ติดเชื้อในกระแสเลือด
และการศึกษาพบว่าในกลุ่มผู้ติดเชื้อในกระแสเลือดจาก *P. aeruginosa* พบการติดเชื้อที่เกี่ยวข้องในโรงพยาบาล และการได้รับยาด้วยรูปแบบ
ชนิดเดียวกันเป็นปัจจัยเสี่ยงของการติดเชื้อในกระแสเลือดจาก *P. aeruginosa*

คำสำคัญ : ปัจจัยเสี่ยง, การติดเชื้อในกระแสเลือด

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Serum and breast-milk vitamin A in women during lactation in rural Chiang Mai, Thailand

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Summary Vitamin A deficiency can occur during lactation and breast-milk vitamin A has been recommended for monitoring the vitamin A status of lactating women and their infants. This study aimed to investigate the vitamin A status of lactating women in relation to race, age, parity, duration of lactation and anthropometric status. A cross-sectional study was conducted among 363 lactating women in rural Chiang Mai, Thailand. Blood and breast-milk samples were collected. Serum retinol, carotene and breast-milk retinol concentrations were analysed by high-performance liquid chromatography. The results show that mean serum retinol and breast-milk retinol in Thai were significantly lower than in Thai, 1.91 (0.59) and 0.79 (0.52) compared with 2.10 (0.51) and 1.04 (0.58) μ mol/L, respectively. Mean serum retinol and breast-milk retinol were highest during the 1st 3 months of lactation. Maternal age, parity and anthropometric status (BMI) were not associated with serum or breast-milk retinol concentrations. There was a significant relationship between serum and breast-milk retinol values in women who breastfed for 6 months or longer (regression coefficient 0.30; 95% CI 0.16, 0.43). Breast-milk retinol levels declined significantly from 4 to 12 months after delivery, which could increase the risk of vitamin A deficiency in children who were exclusively breastfed or receiving inappropriate complementary foods during this period. Weaning foods which commence at 6 months and have an adequate vitamin A content should ensure that the vitamin A status of the young child is maintained.

Introduction

Vitamin A is an essential nutrient for growth and development and for maintenance of the integrity of epithelial tissues, immune function and reproduction. Nearly 90% of vitamin A is stored in the liver. Vitamin A circulates largely in the form of a complex of retinol and retinol-binding protein. Serum retinol concentration can reflect total body storage of vitamin A only when liver vitamin A stores are severely depleted or excessively

high. β -carotene, a nutrient distributed mainly in yellow and dark green leafy vegetables and fruits, has provitamin A activity and is the main source of vitamin A.¹ The prevalence of vitamin A deficiency varies within and between countries and depends on local factors such as food security and the effectiveness of intervention programmes.² Vitamin A deficiency can occur during lactation and it has been suggested that breast-milk vitamin A concentrations are useful for monitoring the vitamin A status of lactating women and their infants. An advantage of this is that breast-milk is generally feasible to collect, acceptable culturally and suitable for field studies.^{3,4} A breast-milk retinol concentration of less than 1.05 μ mol/L or serum retinol

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TABLE 1. Mean concentrations of serum retinol, β -carotene and breast-milk retinol categorized by maternal characteristics.

	n	Serum		Breast-milk	
		Retinol* (μ mol/L)	β -carotene† (μ mol/L)	n	Retinol* (μ mol/L)
<i>Race</i>					
Hill tribe	205	1.91 (0.59)	0.28 (0.39)	198	0.79 (0.52)
Thai	57	2.10 (0.51)	0.41 (0.34)	56	1.04 (0.58)
<i>Age (yr)</i>					
<20	45	1.88 (0.60)	0.35 (0.43)	44	0.91 (0.66)
20-30	164	1.92 (0.58)	0.29 (0.26)	156	0.82 (0.42)
≥31	53	1.99 (0.55)	0.34 (0.37)	52	0.87 (0.50)
<i>Months of lactation</i>					
≤3	34	2.26 (0.57)	0.26 (0.20)	34	1.13 (0.62)
4-6	53	1.93 (0.47)	0.31 (0.26)	53	0.71 (0.50)
7-12	77	1.79 (0.47)	0.32 (0.26)	76	0.73 (0.41)
>12	96	1.96 (0.67)	0.32 (0.38)	89	0.92 (0.60)
<i>Parity</i>					
1	78	1.91 (0.56)	0.29 (0.26)	76	0.84 (0.55)
2	146	1.99 (0.59)	0.32 (0.34)	141	0.86 (0.55)
≥3	38	1.88 (0.55)	0.30 (0.34)	37	0.79 (0.54)
<i>BMI (kg/m²)</i>					
<18.5	9	2.06 (0.43)	0.20 (0.17)	9	0.95 (0.35)
≥18.5	249	1.95 (0.34)	0.32 (0.31)	241	0.84 (0.35)

Numbers in parentheses are standard deviations; *p < 0.05 for race and months of lactation; †p < 0.05 for race.

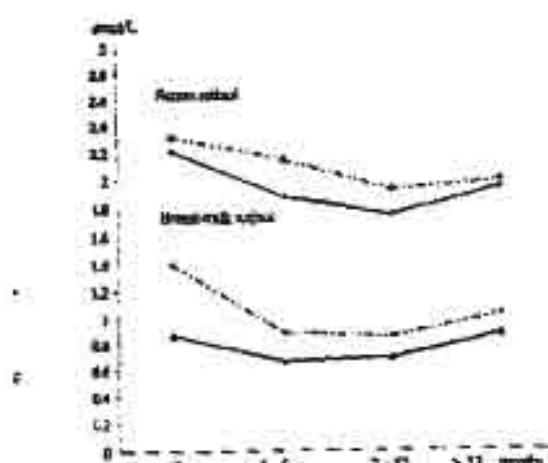


FIG. 1. Mean serum and breast-milk retinol in relation to duration of lactation categorized by race: — Hill tribe; - - - Thai.

breastfed for 6 months or longer (regression co-efficients 0.30; 95% CI 0.16, 0.43, $p < 0.001$).

Discussion

This study was conducted amongst two tribal groups in a remote area of Chiang Mai, Thailand where breastfeeding is widely practiced. The results cannot be considered representative of the whole population. Karen hill-tribe communities have been considered to be a population at risk for vitamin A deficiency and a childhood vitamin A supplementation programme was launched a few months before commencing the present study. No symptomatic cases of vitamin A deficiency were reported during this period (personal communication). This is consistent with the findings of the present study which show that serum retinol, β -carotene and breast-milk retinol concentrations were mostly within normal limits. Hill-tribe mothers had significantly lower levels of serum and breast-milk retinol than Thais, which could relate to differences in lifestyle, eating behaviour and food availability between these two

less than 0.7 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ suggests vitamin A deficiency.¹⁴ The objective of this study was to investigate the vitamin A status of lactating women in a remote area of rural Chiang Mai, Thailand where the supply of vitamin A in the diet is mainly from plant sources. Serum retinol, β -carotene and breast-milk retinol concentrations were measured and are described in relation to race, age, body mass index (BMI) and duration of lactation.

Methods

A cross-sectional study was conducted among 262 lactating women in three sub-districts in Maeham, Chiang Mai province in 1999. Permission for the survey was obtained from Chiang Mai Public Health Office. The sample represented approximately 80% of lactating women in the study area. They were interviewed for information on pregnancy history and breastfeeding practices. Weight in kilograms and height in centimeters were measured. With verbal consent, blood samples were collected by venepuncture using disposable, mineral-free syringes and needles, and mineral-free containers. Breast-milk samples were obtained by manually expressing 7–15 cc directly into a clean plastic container. Milk samples were placed in an icebox with the blood samples and transferred to the laboratory on the same day. Serum and breast-milk samples were stored at -20°C until assayed. Serum retinol, β -carotene and breast-milk retinol concentrations were estimated by high-performance liquid chromatography. The type of column used for the assay was a Spherisorb ODS II 5 μm 250 4.6 mm. Nutritional status was assessed using body mass index (BMI), calculated as weight/height². BMI less than 18.5 kg/m^2 was considered indicative of chronic energy deficiency.¹⁵ Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used for comparison of mean serum and breast-milk retinol values between groups of women categorised by race, age, parity, BMI and duration of lactation.

Regression analysis was used to describe the relationship between breast-milk and serum retinol. Statistical significance was considered to be $p < 0.05$.

Results

Two hundred and sixty-two women were studied, 57 Thais and 205 (78%) from the Karen and Lahu hill tribes. Mean (SD) age was 25.4 years (6.17). Sixty per cent were illiterate, 33% were parity two or more and 28% were exclusively breast-feeding. Symptoms and signs of vitamin A deficiency were not detected in any participant. Five women had serum retinol levels less than 0.7 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ and 190 (73.6%) had breast-milk retinol levels less than 1.05 $\mu\text{mol/L}$. Mean serum retinol in hill tribes was significantly lower than in Thais, 1.91 (0.59) compared with 2.10 (0.51) $\mu\text{mol/L}$, respectively ($p < 0.05$). Mean breast-milk retinol concentration in the hill tribe women was 0.79 (0.52) compared with 1.04 (0.58) $\mu\text{mol/L}$ in the Thais ($p < 0.01$). Maternal age, parity and nutritional status were not associated with the values of serum or breast-milk retinol ($p > 0.05$). Mean serum retinol was highest during the 1st 3 months of lactation, 2.26 (0.57) $\mu\text{mol/L}$ compared with 1.94 (0.47), 1.79 (0.47) and 1.93 (0.63) for months 4–6 months, 7–12 and over 1 year of lactation, respectively ($p < 0.01$). Breast-milk retinol showed a similar pattern (Table 1). Serum and breast-milk retinol levels categorised by race and duration of lactation are shown in Fig. 1. In the hill tribes, serum retinol concentrations declined significantly between 1 and 12 months after delivery ($p < 0.05$). Breast-milk retinol declined significantly in Thais ($p < 0.05$). The regression lines describing the relationship between serum retinol and breast-milk retinol categorised by duration of lactation are shown in Fig. 2. There was significant correlation between serum and breast-milk retinol values in a group of women who had

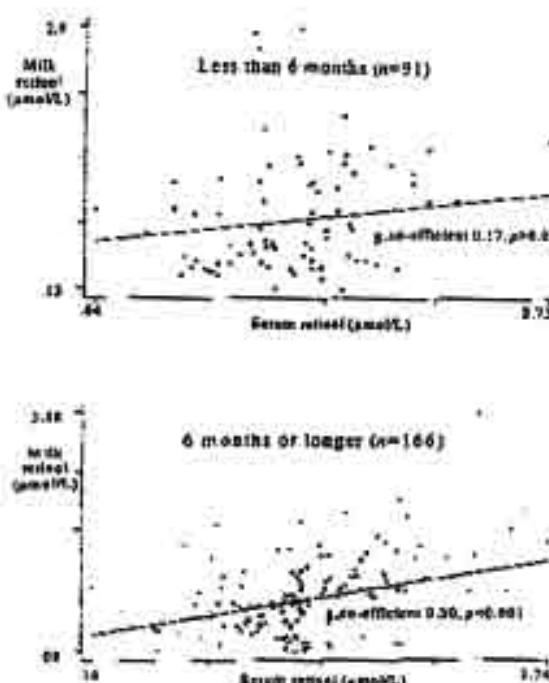


FIG. 2. Relationship between breast-milk and serum retinol categorised by months of lactation.

populations. The results show that breast-milk retinol levels declined significantly at between 4 and 12 months after delivery. This would increase the risk of vitamin A deficiency in children who were exclusively breastfed or in those given inappropriate complementary foods during this period. Weaning foods commenced at 6 months with an adequate vitamin A content should ensure that the vitamin A status of young children is maintained.

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Efficiency of the Glutaraldehyde Test Strip for Monitoring the Concentration of Glutaraldehyde in Reused Solutions for Disinfecting Endoscopes

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Abstract

Background : Glutaraldehyde has been widely used for low-temperature disinfection of endoscopes. The current practice at Siriraj Hospital is to change the glutaraldehyde solution every 21 days or when the solution appears turbid. The disadvantages of this practice include inadequate disinfection of endoscopes if the concentration of glutaraldehyde in a reused solution is insufficient or wasted if the discarded solution is still active.

Objective : To determine the efficiency of a glutaraldehyde test strip (GTS) in monitoring the amount of glutaraldehyde in a reused solution for disinfecting endoscopes.

Method : Reused glutaraldehyde solutions for disinfecting bronchoscopes, gastrosopes and colonoscopes were tested for the concentration of glutaraldehyde with a GTS thrice weekly for the first week and then every working day up to 56 days. If the GTS indicated a concentration of glutaraldehyde ≥ 1.8 per cent after 21 days, 5 ml of the solution was taken to the laboratory to determine its mycobactericidal activity.

Results : All samples of the reused glutaraldehyde solution up to 56 days with a concentration of ≥ 1.8 per cent glutaraldehyde on GTS from testings showed mycobactericidal activity. If the glutaraldehyde solution was reused for up to 28, 42 or 56 days, it could save 9,603; 22,813 and 29,415 baht per year respectively for the gastroscopy and colonoscopy units. The corresponding figures were 949; 2,726 and 4,564 baht per year for the bronchoscopy unit. It is estimated that up to 400,000 baht per year could be saved by adopting the strategy of GTS monitoring in all endoscopy units at Siriraj Hospital.

Conclusion : The current strategy of discarding reused glutaraldehyde solution in the gastroscopy, colonoscopy and bronchoscopy units at Siriraj Hospital may be inappropriate since the reused solution is still mycobactericidal for up to 56 days.

Key word : Glutaraldehyde, Glutaraldehyde Test Strip, Endoscopes

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Since the fiberoptic endoscope was introduced in the mid 1950's, there has been increasing use of this diagnostic and therapeutic device. However, without proper decontamination, the potential for transmission of infectious agents to patients undergoing endoscopic procedures has become evident. There have been reports of infections caused by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*⁽¹⁾, *Proteus* spp⁽²⁾, *Serratia marcescens*⁽³⁾, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*^(4,5) and viral hepatitis^(6,7) in patients undergoing endoscopic procedures. The reason for cross infection was inadequate disinfection or sterilization. In order to prevent or reduce the transmission of infectious agents via endoscopes, a strict disinfectant or sterilizing process is crucial⁽⁸⁾.

Glutaraldehyde is widely used as a high-level disinfectant for medical equipment such as endoscopes. Its advantages include excellent biocidal properties, activity in the presence of organic matter, non-corrosive action on endoscopic equipment and non-coagulation of proteinaceous materials. However, its anti-microbial activity correlates with the concentration of glutaraldehyde which in turn is dependent on its age and the condition in which it is reused, such as dilution and organic stress. Most studies have suggested that 1 per cent glutaraldehyde is the minimal effective concentration (MEC) when used as a high-level disinfectant⁽⁹⁾. A study by Mbithi et al showed that the glutaraldehyde concentration declined from 2.4 per cent to 1.5 per cent after 10 days in manual and automatic baths used for endoscopes⁽¹⁰⁾. Another study by Leong et al showed the glutaraldehyde concentration declined to below 1 per cent to as low as 0.27 per cent on day 4 of reuse⁽¹¹⁾. This information indicates that dilution of the glutaraldehyde solution commonly occurred during use. So monitoring of the glutaraldehyde concentration is important to ensure the efficacy of the solution. The glutaraldehyde test strip (GTS) is used for determining whether an effective concentration of glutaraldehyde is present despite repeated use and dilution of the glutaraldehyde solution.

At Siriraj Hospital, glutaraldehyde solution is used as a disinfectant/sterilant solution for medical equipment, especially endoscopes. The amount of glutaraldehyde solution used is 1,660 gallons per year with a total expense greater than 700,000 baht. The current practice at our hospital is to change the glutaraldehyde solution every 21 days or when the solution appears turbid. The disadvantages of this current practice are inadequate disinfection of endoscopes if

the concentration of reused glutaraldehyde is below the MEC and wasted if the reused solution is still active. GTS testing has been recently introduced in Siriraj Hospital but there is no information on its efficiency in monitoring the concentration of glutaraldehyde in a reused solution.

The objective of the study was to determine the efficiency of GTS in monitoring the concentration of reused glutaraldehyde solution for bronchoscope, gastroscope and colonoscope disinfection at Siriraj Hospital.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Glutaraldehyde solution

Cidex, Formula 7 Long-Life Activated Dialdehyde solution was purchased from Johnson & Johnson Medical, Inc. (Thailand) for use in the endoscopy units. The activator provided with the product was added to the glutaraldehyde solution just prior to filling the disinfectant baths at a ratio of 1:1. The concentration of glutaraldehyde in a freshly prepared solution was 2.2-2.6 per cent

Glutaraldehyde test strip

The glutaraldehyde test strip used in the study was the 3983MM cold sterilog glutaraldehyde monitor. It is a semi-quantitative chemical indicator used to determine the MEC of Cidex, Formula 7 Long-Life Activated Dialdehyde solution. The strip is composed of a black outlined paper pad attached to a plastic strip which is used for dipping the pad into the solution. The black outline paper pad is composed of two active ingredients, sodium sulfite (90.5%) and glycine (9.5%). The glutaraldehyde reacts with the sodium sulfite to form a sulfite addition product and sodium hydroxide. The sodium hydroxide then reacts with glycine to form a yellow color. The GTS is dipped into the glutaraldehyde solution and then immediately withdrawn and left for 5 to 8 minutes. Any shade of uniform yellow on the pad indicates a concentration of glutaraldehyde of 1.8 per cent or greater, whereas white remaining on the pad indicates a concentration of glutaraldehyde of less than 1.8 per cent.

Method

Information on the current practice of changing glutaraldehyde solution in the bronchoscopy, gastroscopy, and colonoscopy unit was collected. The annual consumption of glutaraldehyde, the cost of glutaraldehyde solution and the cost of GTS were provided by the Department of Pharmacy. The study

was conducted for 2 cycles of use for each endoscopy unit. During the study period, the concentration of reused glutaraldehyde solution in each bath from each unit was tested with a GTS every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the first week then every working day for 5 weeks (first cycle) and 7 weeks (second cycle) without giving the results of the GTS testing to the personnel responsible for the endoscopy units. Five millilitres of the glutaraldehyde solution was collected for anti-mycobacterial activity testing on the day on which the reused glutaraldehyde solution was changed but the result on GTS testing showed that the concentration of glutaraldehyde was still above 1.8 per cent and thereafter up to day 56. The personnel in the endoscopy unit were asked to continue using the reused glutaraldehyde solution for disinfecting the endoscopes before re-immersing the endoscopes into newly prepared glutaraldehyde solution after day 21.

Antimycobacterial activity testing

M. tuberculosis (standard strain) was used as the test organism. The inoculum concentration was 3×10^7 cells/ml. 100 microlitres of *M. tuberculosis* suspension was inoculated into 900 microlitres of reused glutaraldehyde solution and left for 60 minutes. The mixture was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 2 minutes and the supernatant was discarded. The pellet was washed with 1 ml of sterile water and then centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 2 minutes and the supernatant was discarded. One millilitre of distilled water was added and mixed by vortex. 100 microlitres of the suspension was spread on a Middlebrook 7H10 agar plate and the plate was incubated at 37°C for 3 weeks. *M. tuberculosis* colonies grown on the plate were counted. In order to interpret the culture result from the reused glutaraldehyde solution, the plate subcultured from a control solution without glutaraldehyde had to be positive with a heavy growth of *M. tuberculosis*.

Data analysis

The cost analysis between using GTS to monitor the concentration of reused glutaraldehyde solution and without using GTS was calculated and compared.

RESULTS

The amount of glutaraldehyde solution used was 7 gallons and 2 gallons for each cycle for the

gastroscopy/colonoscopy unit and bronchoscopy unit respectively. The duration of each cycle for reusing glutaraldehyde solution was 21 days and 22.5 days for the gastroscopy/colonoscopy unit and bronchoscopy unit respectively. The cost of the solution for each cycle was 3,080 baht and 880 baht for the gastroscopy/colonoscopy unit and bronchoscopy unit respectively. The daily expense was 147 baht and 39 baht for gastroscopy/colonoscopy unit and bronchoscopy unit respectively.

The concentration of the reused glutaraldehyde solutions both in the gastroscopy/colonoscopy unit and bronchoscopy unit was still above the MEC of 1.8 per cent on the day in which the reused solution was changed and was still above MEC of 1.8 per cent on day 42 (1st cycle) and day 56 (2nd cycle). The reused solution was still active against *M. tuberculosis* when it was tested for antimycobacterial activity.

The cost analysis of glutaraldehyde test strip for monitoring the glutaraldehyde concentration on the gastroscopy/colonoscopy units showed that if the glutaraldehyde test strip was not used, the expense for the glutaraldehyde solution per cycle was 3,080; 4,107; 6,160 and 8,213 baht when the duration of use was 21, 28, 42, and 56 days respectively. If the glutaraldehyde test strip was used, the expense for the glutaraldehyde solution and the test strip was 3,288 (3,030 baht for the solution and 208 baht for the GTS); 3,368 (3,080 and 288); 3,528 (3,080 and 448) and 3,688 (3,080 and 608) baht per cycle when the reused duration was 21, 28, 42 and 56 days respectively as shown in Table 1. The annual expense saved would be 9,602; 22,834 and 29,414 baht if the GTS was used to guide the timing of changing the solution and could extend its use from 21 to 28, 42, and 56 days respectively.

The cost analysis of glutaraldehyde test strip for monitoring the glutaraldehyde concentration on the bronchoscopy unit showed that if the glutaraldehyde test strip was not used, the cost of the glutaraldehyde solution for each cycle was 880; 1,095; 1,643 and 2,190 baht when the reused duration was 22.5, 28, 42, and 56 days respectively. If the glutaraldehyde test strip was used, the cost of the glutaraldehyde solution and the test strip was 1,104 (880 baht for the solution and 224 baht for the GTS); 1,168 (880 and 288); 1,328 (880 and 448) and 1,488 (880 and 608) baht when the reused duration was 21, 28, 42 and 56 days respectively as shown in Table 2. The annual expense that would be saved was 2,728 and

Table 1. The cost of glutaraldehyde solution used in the gastroscopy/colonoscopy units when GTS was used and not used.

Duration (days)	Cost of glutaraldehyde solution without using GTS (Baht)	Cost of glutaraldehyde solution when using GTS (Baht)
21	3,080	3,288
28	4,107	3,368
42	6,160	3,528
56	8,213	3,688

Table 2. The cost of glutaraldehyde solution used in the bronchoscopy unit when GTS was used and not used.

Duration (days)	Cost of glutaraldehyde solution without using GTS (Baht)	Cost of glutaraldehyde solution when using GTS (Baht)
22.5	880	1,104
28	1,095	1,168
42	1,643	1,328
56	2,190	1,488

4,563 baht if GTS was used to guide the timing of the glutaraldehyde solution change and could extend its use from 22.5 days to 42 and 56 days respectively.

The overall hospital annual expense for glutaraldehyde solution could be reduced by 148,904; 330,256; and 420,932 baht if the strategy of using GTS to guide the timing of glutaraldehyde solution change and could extend the duration of use from approximately 21 days to 28, 42 and 56 days respectively.

DISCUSSION

The reason the authors selected *M. tuberculosis* as a microorganism for testing the efficacy of disinfectant of reused glutaraldehyde solution was this organism is relatively more resistant to disinfectant than viruses or other bacteria due to the property of its cell wall. So it was assumed that if the reused glutaraldehyde solution could inhibit the growth of *M. tuberculosis*, it should inhibit the growth of other pathogenic microorganisms. The results of this study show that by using GTS to monitor the concentration of glutaraldehyde still present in the solution, the duration of use of the reused solution could be extended up to 56 days. However, for the bronchoscopy unit, if the extended duration of use of reused

glutaraldehyde was only 28 days, the annual expense for glutaraldehyde solution using GTS will be higher than without using GTS. But if nosocomial infection control and prevention which is one of the most important indices of the standard care of medical care is of concern, using GTS will enable the use of reused glutaraldehyde solution safely. This study demonstrated that using GTS was efficient in monitoring the concentration glutaraldehyde in the reused solution for disinfecting bronchoscopes, gastrosopes and coloscopes. However, how frequently the reused glutaraldehyde should be tested needs further investigation. It should be mentioned that the exposure time of *M. tuberculosis* to the reused glutaraldehyde solution in the laboratory in the present study was 60 minutes, therefore it might be necessary to immerse the endoscope for 60 minutes if the reused glutaraldehyde solution is to be used beyond 21 days.

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Incidence of urinary tract infections in patients with short-term indwelling urethral catheters: A comparison between a 3-day urinary drainage bag change and no change regimens

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Background: The current practice of caring for hospitalized patients with indwelling urethral catheters in Siriraj Hospital is to change the drainage bag every 3 days. In an extensive medical literature search, no evidence was noted to support this practice.

Objective: The purpose of this study was to compare the incidence of catheter-associated urinary tract infections (UTI) in hospitalized patients with indwelling catheters who receive a drainage bag change every 3 days with the incidence of UTI in patients who receive no bag change.

Design: This study was a randomized controlled trial.

Participants and study procedures: Of the patients at Siriraj Hospital, 153 with an indwelling urinary catheter for at least 3 days were randomized to a 3-day drainage bag change or a no change regimen. A urine sample was obtained from each patient for culture every 7 days, on the day the catheter was removed, or the day the patient was suspected of having a UTI.

Results: Of the 153 study patients, 79 were randomized to the 3-day bag change regimen, and 74 patients were in the no-change group. Both groups were comparable for all baseline characteristics. The incidence of symptomatic UTI was 13.9% in the 3-day drainage bag change group and 10.8% in the no change group ($P = .7$). The incidence of asymptomatic UTI was 36.7% in the 3-day bag change group and 36.5% in the no change group ($P = .9$).

Conclusion: There is no evidence for the necessity of a bag change every 3 days at Siriraj Hospital; the urine bag can be left longer than 3 days. However, the appropriate frequency of urinary drainage bag change needs additional study because the sample size in this study does not rule out a false-negative result. (Am J Infect Control 2003;31:9-12.)

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Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the patients

Characteristic	3-Day change regimen	No change regimen	P
Number	79	74	
Men:Women	38:41	32:42	.7
Mean age (y)	59.3	57.9	.3
Age range (y)	14-87	13-90	
Mean days of indwelling urethral catheter	10.1	9.5	.1
Range	4-24	4-29	
Underlying diseases (%)	64 (81)	63 (83.1)	.4
Diabetes mellitus	18 (23.8)	15 (20.3)	
Hypertension	15 (19)	17 (23)	
Cerebrovascular diseases	15 (19)	16 (21.4)	
Cancer	10 (12.7)	10 (13.5)	
Renal diseases	6 (7.6)	8 (10.8)	
Congestive heart failure	3 (3.8)	5 (6.7)	
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	4 (5)	3 (4)	
Liver diseases	2 (2.5)	2 (2.7)	
Others	11 (13.9)	9 (12.2)	
Indication of urethral catheterization (%)			.9
Urinary retention	17 (21.5)	13 (17.6)	
Urinary incontinence	3 (3.8)	5 (6.8)	
Monitoring urine volume	56 (70.9)	54 (73)	

Urinary tract infection (UTI) has been one of the most common nosocomial infections in Thailand during the past decade.¹⁻³ The most important risk factor that leads to UTI in hospitalized patients is presence of an indwelling urethral catheter.⁴ The most important factors associated with UTI in patients with an indwelling urethral catheter were inadequate aseptic technique during catheter insertion, long duration of catheterization, and an open urinary circuit system.⁵⁻⁸ Interventions attempting to prevent or minimize catheter-associated UTI have been studied, and evidence-based effective interventions are reviewed in the recent guidelines for preventing infections associated with the insertion and maintenance of short-term indwelling urethral catheters in acute care in 2001.⁹ It is recommended that a drainage bag should be changed when clinically indicated or in line with the manufacturer's recommendations. Manufacturers recommend, and the Drug Tariff states, that drainage bags should be changed at 5- to 7-day intervals, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines discourage routine changes.¹⁰ However, the frequency of urinary drainage bag change in patients with indwelling urethral catheters at Siriraj Hospital is 3 days. An extensive search for evidence to support this practice revealed only a study comparing urine bag changing regimens in 12 elderly long-term

catheterized patients.¹¹ No significant clinical or microbiologic differences between the patients receiving daily and those receiving weekly urine bag changes. Because each change of urinary drainage bag leads to a break in a closed system, the current practice at Siriraj Hospital may predispose the patient to developing UTI. The objective of the study was to compare the incidence of catheter-associated UTI in hospitalized patients with an indwelling urinary catheter who receive a drainage bag change every 3 days and those who receive no bag change.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

The study was approved by the institutional review board of Mahidol University. The study subjects were patients aged more than 12 years who were admitted to medical wards, including the medical intensive care units at Siriraj Hospital (a tertiary care university hospital), from September 2001 to January 2002 and who were catheterized for at least 3 days. Subjects were excluded if they were catheterized before admission or if they had a UTI before urethral catheterization. On the third day of indwelling urinary catheterization, the patient was allocated by stratified randomization according to the study patients' location (ie, men's or women's ward, regular ward, or intensive care unit) to receive either 3-day urinary drainage bag change or a no change regimen. The patients in the bag change group had their urinary drainage bags changed every 3 days. The patients in the no change group had their urinary drainage bags changed only when the urethral catheters were changed or the urinary drainage bags were torn or damaged. The study patients were followed daily for symptoms and signs of UTI until the catheters were removed, the patient died, or the patient was diagnosed as having a UTI. A urine sample from each study patient was taken for quantitative culture every 7 days, when the catheter was removed, or when the patient was suspected of having UTI. The diagnostic criteria for catheter-associated UTI were those defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.¹² The data of the patients in both groups were compared with an unpaired Student *t* test or chi-square statistics where appropriate. All comparisons were 2-sided, and *P* < .05 was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

The study included 153 patients. Seventy-nine patients were randomized to the 3-day urinary

Table 2. Rates of UTI between the 3-day urinary drainage bag change regimen and the no change regimen

Type of UTI	3-day change regimen	No change regimen	P
Symptomatic UTI*	11 episodes (13.9%) or 13.8 episodes per 1000 catheter-days	8 episodes (10.8%) or 11.4 episodes per 1000 catheter-days	.7
Asymptomatic UTI	29 patients (36.7%)	27 patients (34.5%)	.9

*Absolute difference of symptomatic UTI rate between the bag change regimen and the no change regimen was 3.1% (13.9%-10.8%), with 95% confidence interval between -7.8% and 13.8%.

drainage bag change regimen and 74 patients to the no change regimen. The baseline characteristics of the patients are shown in Table 1. The baseline characteristics of all of the patients were similar. The average duration of indwelling urinary catheter was 10.1 days (range, 4-24 days) in the bag change group and 9.5 days (range, 4-29 days) in the no change group ($P = .1$). The symptomatic UTI rates and asymptomatic UTI rates between the bag change regimen and the no change regimen are shown in Table 2. The incidence of symptomatic UTI was 13.9% (13.8 per 1000 catheter-days) in the bag change group and 10.8% (11.4 per 1000 catheter-days) in the no change group ($P = .7$). The absolute difference of symptomatic UTI rate between the bag change regimen and the no change regimen was 3.1%, with 95% confidence interval between -7.8% to 13.8%. The incidence of asymptomatic UTI was 36.7% in the bag change group and 36.5% in the no change group ($P = .9$). The organisms recovered from urine samples are shown in Table 3. The types of the organisms were not significantly different between the 2 groups. *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella* sp, *Enterobacter* sp, *Enterococcus* sp, and yeast were the most common organisms found in both groups.

DISCUSSION

The symptomatic UTI rate in the patients with indwelling urethral catheters whose urinary drainage bags were changed every 3 days (13.9% or 13.8 episodes per 1000 catheter days) was higher than those reported from other studies that found only 20% to 30% of patients with catheters had bacteruria, and only 2% to 6% had symptoms for UTI.¹³ The higher UTI rates could be a result of the fact that this study enrolled only medical patients, including those staying in intensive care units who usually had underlying chronic illnesses and patients who had already been catheterized for at least 3 days. However, the nosocomial infection surveillance data on the symptomatic UTI rate in the

Table 3. Organisms recovered from urine samples of the patients

Organism	3-Day change regimen	No change regimen
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	7	8
<i>Klebsiella</i> sp	7	4
<i>Enterobacter</i> sp	6	4
<i>Enterococcus</i> sp	7	9
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	3	3
<i>Acinetobacter</i> sp	2	2
<i>Edwardsiella</i> sp	2	4
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	2	1
<i>Proteus</i> sp	1	0
<i>Morganella</i> sp	1	2
Gram-positive rod	2	3
Nonfermentative gram-negative rod	1	0
Polymicrobial	3	0
Yeast	11	8

same population at Siriraj Hospital in the year before this study period averaged 13 episodes per 1000 catheter-days (range, 9.7-17), which was similar to that observed during the study. The UTI rates in the no change group tended to be lower than those in the 3-day urinary drainage bag change group, but the difference was not statistically significant. An explanation for this observation could result from a small sample size. Therefore, this study cannot confirm the hypothesis that more frequent changes of urinary drainage bag leads to breaks in a closed system, which results in an increased risk of developing UTI. More studies are needed. At present no evidence shows that retaining the urinary drainage bag for patients with short-term indwelling urethral catheters increases the risk of UTI. It should be mentioned that the average duration of indwelling urethral catheter in the no change group was 9.5 days and the longest duration was 29 days; no data was taken on patients with an indwelling urethral catheter for more than 29 days. The urinary drainage bag from one patient in the no change group had to be changed because of a tear

of the bag hang after 14 days' use. On the basis of these observations, no evidence has been found that supports 3-day urinary drainage bag changes in Siriraj Hospital. The urinary drainage bag can be left longer than 3 days, and this practice can save expense and personnel time. The urinary drainage bag should be changed only when the catheter is changed or the bag is torn or damaged. This practice policy has been adopted for Siriraj Hospital since March 2002.

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Skin flora of patients in Thailand

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Background: Studies taken from different hospitalized patient populations, environments, and geographic regions reveal differences in the numbers and species of organisms colonizing the skin. Our aim was to determine the types and amounts of skin flora, and examine the factors associated with variations in microbial skin flora in patients in Thailand.

Method: We studied 350 outpatients and 500 inpatients at Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand. The skin at the forearm and the sternum of each patient was cultured by contact plate technique.

Results: The number of skin flora colony-forming units (CFUs) were correlated to the site of sampling. There was a significant correlation of CFUs between samples from the forearm and the sternum in patients who were hospitalized ($r = 0.6$; $P < .001$) and in outpatients ($r = 0.5$; $P < .001$). The numbers of micro-organisms on the sternum was significantly greater than the number cultured from the forearm for all patients. Inpatients had significantly more organisms on the the forearm and sternum compared with outpatients. High counts (CFUs > 600) were found more frequently in patients who were hospitalized; had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes mellitus, or autoimmune diseases; and were undergoing operation and receiving antibiotics. *Acinetobacter* spp and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* were found more frequently in patients who were hospitalized.

Conclusion: Skin flora of patients in tertiary care hospitals in Thailand has higher CFUs, and *A baumannii* is prevalent, especially in patients who are hospitalized. (Am J Infect Control 2003;31:90-4)

The skin has been considered to be one of the most important reservoirs for micro-organisms causing hospital-acquired infections.¹⁻³ Although the information on skin flora has been well described, most of the data were derived from studies of healthy Caucasian populations and health care personnel.⁴⁻⁹ Several studies have been conducted of patients who were hospitalized in the United States, Europe, and Hong Kong that revealed a difference in the patterns of skin flora among different patient population and environments.¹⁰⁻¹⁴ The objectives of this study were to determine the types and amounts of skin flora,

and examine the factors associated with variations in microbial skin flora in patients in Thailand.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The study was approved by the institutional review board, faculty of medicine, Siriraj Hospital.

Patients

From May to September 2000 (which covered summer and rainy seasons), we studied 350 outpatients and 500 inpatients of Siriraj Hospital, an 1800-bed tertiary care university hospital in Bangkok, Thailand. Patients were selected by quota samplings to cover a variety of diseases and services. Outpatients were those treated in the general medical department, surgery department, and oncology, HIV/AIDS, pulmonary, renal, gastrointestinal, hematology, diabetic, and neurology clinics. Inpatients were those admitted to medical and surgical wards, and medical and surgical intensive care departments. Demographic information and data regarding vari-

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ables potentially associated with skin flora were collected from the patients and their medical records.

Procedures

Only patients who gave informed consent were included in the study. The skin at the forearm and the sternum were the culture sites for each patient. If the sternum was unavailable because of a surgical wound or skin lesion, for example, the skin at the upper portion of the back was cultured. The culture plate used was a contact plate (Rodac plate containing trypticase soy agar with 5% sheep blood, Becton Dickinson, Cockeysville, Md). All samples were obtained by 1 of 3 infection control nurses who were trained in a standardized technique. The plate was gently rolled a single time over the medial surface of the forearm and another plate was done at midsternum for each patient. The plates were sent to the microbiology laboratory within 1 hour. The plates were incubated at 35°C for 24 hours. The colony count was made visually under a magnifying glass. The organisms grown on the plates were identified by standard techniques.

Data analysis

The clinical information and microbiologic data were entered into Statistical Package for the Social Science program, and the data were analyzed by descriptive statistics, parametric *t* tests, nonparametric tests, and multivariate analysis where appropriate. All statistical tests were 2-sided and considered significant at $P < .05$.

RESULTS

A total of 850 patients were asked to participate in the study and all voluntarily agreed. The characteristics of the 350 outpatients and 500 inpatients are shown in Table 1. The prevalence of underlying diseases of cancer and valvular heart disease was significantly higher in patients who were hospitalized; whereas HIV/AIDS, stroke, and chronic renal failure were significantly more prevalent in outpatients. Antibiotic and corticosteroid therapy, and operation were more prevalent for inpatients. Only 2 patients had a culture taken from the skin of their upper back instead of their sternum. The colony-forming units (CFUs) of the organisms cultured from the skin of the patients are shown in Table 2. There is a significant correlation of CFUs between forearm and sternum for inpatients ($r = 0.6$; $P < .001$) and outpatients ($r = 0.5$; $P < .001$). The number of micro-organisms on the sternum was

Table 1. Characteristics of 350 outpatients and 500 inpatients

Characteristic	Outpatients (350)	Inpatients (500)	Total (850)
Sex			
Male	157 (44.9%)	276 (55.2%)	433 (50.9%)
Female	193 (55.1%)	224 (44.8%)	417 (49.1%)
Age, y			
Mean (SD)	50.8 (15.8)	56.4 (17.2)	54.1 (16.9)
Range	21-86	20-94	20-94
Height, cm			
Mean (SD)	158.8 (8.3)	161.1 (8.4)	160.2 (8.4)
Body weight, kg			
Mean (SD)	58.4 (10.8)	58.2 (12.3)	58.3 (11.7)
Ethnicity			
Thai	343 (98%)	476 (95.2)	819 (96.4%)
Chinese/other	7 (2%)	24 (4.8%)	31 (3.6%)
Service			
General medical wards	99 (28.3%)		
Surgical clinics	76 (21.7%)		
Special clinics	175 (50%)		
General surgical wards		125 (25%)	
Medical ICU		125 (25%)	
Surgical ICU		125 (25%)	
Underlying diseases			
Absent	131 (37.4%)	218 (43.6%)	349 (41.1%)
Present	219 (62.6%)	282 (56.4%)	501 (58.9%)
Underlying disease types			
Diabetes mellitus	53 (15.1%)	64 (13.2%)	119 (14.0%)
Cancer*	46 (13.1%)	110 (22.0%)	156 (18.4%)
Ischemic heart	33 (9.4%)	66 (13.2%)	99 (11.6%)
Valvular heart*	13 (3.7%)	41 (8.2%)	54 (6.4%)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary	10 (2.9%)	25 (5.0%)	35 (4.1%)
Cirrhosis	11 (3.1%)	7 (1.4%)	18 (2.1%)
HIV/AIDS*	10 (2.9%)	2 (0.4%)	12 (1.4%)
Stroke*	10 (2.9%)	4 (0.8%)	14 (1.6%)
Chronic renal failure*	16 (4.6%)	8 (1.6%)	24 (2.8%)
Autoimmune	7 (2.0%)	5 (1.0%)	12 (1.4%)
Medications and procedures			
Antibiotics*	24 (6.9%)	383 (76.6%)	407 (47.9%)
Antineoplastics	22 (6.3%)	11 (2.2%)	33 (3.9%)
Corticosteroid*	14 (4.0%)	77 (15.4%)	91 (10.7%)
Operation*	2 (0.6%)	193 (38.6%)	195 (22.9%)

ICU, Intensive care department.

* $P < .05$ between outpatients and inpatients.

significantly higher than that on the forearm for both outpatients and inpatients. The number of organisms on the forearm and sternum of inpatients was significantly higher than that of outpatients. Univariate analysis revealed that older age, higher body weight, hospitalization, ischemic heart disease, diabetes mellitus, autoimmune disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, undergoing operation, and receiving antibiotics was significantly associated with high counts (CFUs > 600). The factors associated with high

Table 2. Colony counts of organisms cultured from skin of patients

	Site	Colony count				
		Mean	Median	Range	>200	>600
350 Outpatients	Forearm	180	123	3-1797	28.6%	3.4%
	Sternum	275	199	6-2008	49.7%	9.7%
500 Inpatients	Forearm	281	161	0-1600	43%	13.4%
	Sternum	351	231	0-1500	53.8%	20.4%
Total 850	Forearm	239	140	0-1797	37.1%	9.3%
	Sternum	320	217	0-2008	52.1%	16%

Table 3. Factors associated with high counts (CFU > 600) from multivariate analysis

Factor	Odds ratio	95% Confidence Interval
Hospitalization	2.4	1.6-3.9
Chronic pulmonary disease	3.4	1.7-7.5
Diabetes mellitus	1.9	1.2-3.2
Autoimmune disease	4.3	1.3-14.5
Operation	1.7	1.1-2.5
Antibiotic	2.3	1.6-3.3

counts from multivariate analysis are shown in Table 3. High counts were found more often in patients who were hospitalized; those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes mellitus, and autoimmune diseases; those having undergone operation; and those receiving antibiotics. The types of organisms recovered from forearm and sternum of outpatients and inpatients are shown in Table 4. *Acinetobacter* spp were found in 335 (39.4%) of 850 patients. They were found in 239 (47.8%) of 500 inpatients and 96 (27.4%) of 350 outpatients. The prevalence of *Acinetobacter* spp colonized on the skin of inpatients was significantly higher than that of outpatients ($P < .001$). Of *Acinetobacter* spp, 62% were *A. baumannii* and the rest were *A. lwoffii*. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* was found significantly more often in patients who were hospitalized, whereas micrococci was found more often in outpatients. Univariate analysis revealed that hospitalization, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, autoimmune disease, having operation, or receiving antibiotics or corticosteroid was significantly associated with *Acinetobacter* spp skin colonization. The factors associated with *Acinetobacter* spp skin colonization from multivariate analysis are shown in Table 5. The factors associated with *Acinetobacter* spp skin colonization were hospital-

ization, having chronic obstructive pulmonary or autoimmune disease, and receiving antibiotics.

DISCUSSION

The differences in several characteristics of the patients observed in the study, such as underlying diseases, may not be clinically meaningful because we used quota sampling in which some specialty clinics (eg, oncology, HIV/AIDS, renal, cardiology, and neurology) were purposely chosen to cover a variety of diseases. Comparing our results for patients in Thailand with the study of patients in the United States by Larson et al.¹⁰ which used the identical methodology, revealed the following similar findings: (1) mean CFUs on sternum were more than on forearm and (2) methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* was found significantly more often for inpatients, whereas micrococci was found more often in outpatients. The main differences between our study and that by Larson¹⁰ were (1) the mean CFUs of the organisms in patients in Thailand were higher than those of patients in the United States; (2) high count (CFU > 600) rate was higher for patients in the United States; (3) gram-negative bacilli were found more often in outpatients in the United States, whereas they were found more often in patients who were hospitalized in Thailand; (4) age, black race, diabetes, and medical intensive care department admission were found to be correlated with high counts in the United States, whereas the factors associated with high counts in Thailand were patients who were hospitalized, had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, had diabetes mellitus, had autoimmune diseases, had undergone operation, and were receiving antibiotics; and (5) *Acinetobacter* spp. was observed in 12.3% of patients in the United States, whereas it was found in 17% of outpatients and 35% of inpatients in Thailand. The observation of high prevalence of *Acinetobacter* spp skin colonizers in patients in Thailand is worth exploring. *Acinetobacter* spp has been the common

Table 4. Types of organisms cultured from forearm and sternum of outpatients and inpatients

Organism	359 Outpatients		500 Inpatients	
	Forearm	Sternum	Forearm	Sternum
Gram-positive bacteria				
Coagulase negative Staphylococci	338 (96.6%)	340 (97.1%)	483 (96.6%)	484 (96.8%)
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>				
MSSA	22 (6.3%)	17 (4.9%)	19 (3.8%)	17 (3.4%)
MRSA*	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)	13 (2.6%)	16 (3.2%)
Enterococci (VRE)	1 (0.3%)	—	5 (1%)	3 (0.6%)
Micrococc*	123 (35.1%)	118 (33.7%)	70 (14%)	82 (16.4%)
Diphtheroides	36 (10.3%)	55 (15.7%)	68 (13.6%)	72 (14.4%)
<i>Bacillus</i> spp	102 (29.1%)	114 (32.6%)	143 (28.6%)	133 (26.6%)
<i>Streptococcus viridans</i>	21 (6%)	10 (2.9%)	2 (0.4%)	3 (0.6%)
Other gram positives	332 (94.9%)	335 (95.7%)	463 (92.6%)	453 (90.6%)
Gram-negative Bacteria				
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp	5 (1.4%)	5 (1.4%)	10 (2%)	10 (2%)
<i>Acinetobacter</i> spp*	58 (16.6%)	60 (17.1%)	177 (35.4%)	178 (35.6%)
Nonfermentative GNR	18 (5.1%)	23 (6.6%)	20 (4%)	17 (3.4%)
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	3 (0.9%)	2 (0.6%)	5 (1%)	6 (1.2%)
<i>Proteus</i> spp	5 (1.4%)	2 (0.6%)	—	1 (0.2%)
<i>Enterobacter</i> spp	1 (2.8%)	2 (0.6%)	5 (1%)	—
Fungus				
Yeast	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)

MSSA, methicillin-sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus*; MRSA, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*; VRE, vancomycin-resistant Enterococci; GNR, gram-negative rods.

*P < .05 between outpatients and inpatients.

causative bacteria for hospital-acquired infections in Thailand and Hong Kong.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ At Siriraj Hospital, *A baumannii* was isolated from blood culture in 86 patients in 1998 and 81 patients in 1999. It was isolated from sputum in 479 patients in 1998 and 461 patients in 1999. *Acinetobacter* spp could be cultured from the skin of healthy people, especially men, during the warmer months of the year and this could be a result of greater perspiration production in males particularly in hot weather that leads to greater colonization of the skin.^{9,18} *Acinetobacter* spp were also found on the skin of health care personnel and inpatients, which might lead to nosocomial infections.^{3,7-9,14,19-21} These observations indicate that human skin is frequently colonized by *Acinetobacter* spp. However, most *Acinetobacter* spp colonized on the skin reported in the literature is not *A baumannii*. Because *A baumannii* is the main species of *Acinetobacter* causing nosocomial infections, the natural reservoir of *A baumannii* remains to be identified. More interestingly, most of *Acinetobacter* spp colonized on the skin of patients in Thailand was *A baumannii*, which was the species responsible for hospital-acquired infections worldwide including Thailand. Therefore, our study demonstrated that *Acinetobacter* spp colonized on the skin of the patients is *A baumannii*, which corresponded to the species causing bacteremia and pneumonia in the same hospital.

Table 5. Factors associated with *Acinetobacter* spp. skin colonization from multivariate analysis

Factor	Odds ratio	95% Confidence Interval
Hospitalization	1.5	1.1-2.3
Chronic pulmonary disease	2.5	1.2-5.1
Autoimmune disease	4	1.1-13.8
Antibiotics	2	1.3-2.9

Unfortunately *A baumannii* isolated from the skin and from the clinical specimens of the patients during the study period was not collected for further study. Therefore, we cannot be certain that they are the same strains. However, the study of *Acinetobacter* infections in Siriraj Hospital has been conducted since January 2002 and all strains of causative agents will be collected. Moreover, *Acinetobacter* spp isolated from environments or the skin of some patients will be collected and compared with clinical strains.

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Effect of Bupivacaine With Epinephrine Wound Instillation for Pain Relief After Pediatric Inguinal Herniorrhaphy and Hydrocelectomy

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Background and Objectives: To evaluate the effect of a 20- or 60-second instillation period using 0.5% bupivacaine with epinephrine for pain relief after pediatric inguinal herniorrhaphy and hydrocelectomy.

Methods: In a randomized, double-blind study, 103 children (aged 1 to 12 years, American Society of Anesthesiologists [ASA] physical status I or II) were allocated into 4 groups after induction of anesthesia. Group 1: normal saline 0.25 mL/kg instilled, which remained in the wound for 20 or 60 seconds before wound closure. Group 2: 0.25 mL/kg 0.5% bupivacaine with epinephrine 5 µg/mL, instilled, which remained in the wound for 20 seconds. Group 3: the same quantity and dose of drug 2 instilled as group, but remained in the wound for 60 seconds. Group 4: an ilioinguinal and iliohypogastric block performed before operation using 0.5 mL/kg 0.25% bupivacaine with epinephrine. The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Pain Scale (CHEOPS) and Aldrete-Kroulik recovery scores were used to monitor postoperative pain and recovery status. Analgesic was given when the CHEOPS score was ≥ 7 despite other supportive therapy.

Results: The number of patients requiring analgesics within 2 hours in group 1 (73.1%) was more than groups 2, 3, and 4 (23.1%, 20.8%, and 16%, respectively, $P < .001$). The median time to first analgesic in group 1 (50 minutes) was also less than groups 2, 3, and 4 (420, 525, and 425 minutes, respectively, $P < .0001$).

Conclusion: 0.5% Bupivacaine with epinephrine for as short an instillation period as 20 or 60 seconds can provide a good analgesic alternative after herniorrhaphy and hydrocelectomy in pediatric patients. All studied blocks had comparable duration of action. *Reg Anesth Pain Med* 2003;28:24-28.

Key Words: Bupivacaine, Epinephrine, Instillation, Herniorrhaphy, Hydrocelectomy.

Inguinal herniorrhaphy and hydrocelectomy are common ambulatory surgical procedures in pediatric patients. Various techniques of regional analgesia, such as caudal block, ilioinguinal and iliohypogastric (IG/IH) block, topical spray, and wound infiltration have been shown to provide effective postoperative analgesia without delaying discharge.¹⁻⁸ Instillation of 0.25% bupivacaine 0.25

mL/kg into the wound at the completion of surgery provides an analgesic effect comparable to IG/IH nerve block.⁴ This approach seems to be simple, but there is still a problem of compliance secondary to the 2-minute instillation time reportedly required for this technique. There has been no study investigating the effect of local anesthetic remaining for a shorter period (< 2 minutes). Theoretically, the therapeutic effects of local anesthetic depend on local disposition, which is influenced by bulk flow of the injected solution, diffusion, and binding of the agent.⁹ When a local anesthetic comes into contact with a peripheral nerve ending for a very short period, the analgesic effect may be insufficient to relieve pain. We hypothesized that if we increased the concentration of local anesthetic to increase the mass of drug and added epinephrine to reduce systemic absorption, we could accelerate the onset and quality of nerve block. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the analgesic effect of

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instilling 0.5% bupivacaine with epinephrine 5 μ g/mL into the wound for only 20 to 60 seconds to determine its effectiveness as compared with placebo or IG/IH block.

Methods

The study was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee, and written informed parental consent was obtained. Children aged 1 to 12 years with an American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) physical status of I or II, undergoing ambulatory inguinal herniorrhaphy or hydrocelectomy, were enrolled in this prospective randomized, controlled trial. The patients, anesthesiologists, and evaluators were blinded to the treatment received. None of the children received preanesthetic medication.

After applying standard monitors, anesthesia was induced with 70% nitrous oxide, 30% oxygen and sevoflurane, then maintained with 70% nitrous oxide, 30% oxygen and halothane via a face mask. The inspired concentration of halothane was adjusted to maintain the systolic blood pressure within 25% of the baseline value. No intraoperative opioids were administered. Before the operations commenced, patients were randomized into 1 of 4 groups by using a random number table. Group 1 was further randomized into a 20-second or 60-second exposure group (to blind surgeons and anesthesiologists). The number of patients who received normal saline 20 and 60 seconds roughly proximate treatment group number, and they were defined as 1 control group because of the similar treatment effect. Groups were also stratified by age (< 5 years and \geq 5 years) due to differences in ability to report pain and by type of surgery. Group 1 patients received an instillation of 0.25 mL/kg normal saline, which remained for either 20 or 60 seconds before wound closure. Group 2 patients received 0.25 mL/kg 0.5% bupivacaine with epinephrine 5 μ g/mL, which remained for 20 seconds before wound closure (BE20). Group 3 patients received 0.25 mL/kg 0.5% bupivacaine with epinephrine 5 μ g/mL, which remained for 60 seconds before wound closure (BE60). Group 4 patients received an ilioinguinal and iliohypogastric block (IG/IH block) with 0.5 mL/kg 0.25% bupivacaine with epinephrine 5 μ g/mL¹⁰ after induction of anesthesia.

The instillation block was performed by surgeons after ligation of the hernial sac. Bupivacaine or saline was instilled into the wound involving muscle and subcutaneous layers and allowed to remain for 20 or 60 seconds. The instilled fluid was swabbed before wound closure.

On arrival to the postanesthesia care unit (PACU), objective pain assessments were performed every 15 minutes by 1 of 2 research nurses blinded to the type of regional anesthetic technique employed, using CHBOPS (The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Pain Scale).¹¹ The research nurses were trained how to rate 30 pain behaviors with CHBOPS using a videotape and were tested for inter-rater reliability until intraclass correlation (ICC) of 0.8 was achieved. Intravenous fentanyl 1 μ g/kg was given to any patient who achieved a pain score of \geq 7 points on 2 successive 5-minute observations¹² and failure of other supportive therapy (parental presence, relief of nausea, vomiting, thirst, or a full bladder). Patient recovery was assessed at 15-minute intervals and recorded using the Aldrete-Kroulik recovery scoring criteria.¹³ The time at which the recovery score reached 5 (recovery time) and the time at which all discharge criteria at our hospital were achieved (discharge time) were also recorded. Patients were kept in PACU for at least 2 hours or until the discharge criteria were fulfilled.

Parents were trained how to use CHBOPS rating of 10 pain behaviors from a videotape. Parent inter-rater reliability with research nurses was tested to determine their ability to rate their child's pain behaviors in the PACU. Further training for parents was required until an ICC of 0.8 was achieved.

If patients did not feel pain when discharge criteria were fulfilled, their parents provided pain assessment at home until the CHBOPS score was \geq 7 despite other supportive therapy. Oral paracetamol 10 mg/kg would then be given and the time recorded as the first analgesic needed. Home data were sent to the researcher by phone or letter.

The sample size was calculated based on the proportion of patients who required analgesics in the placebo group = 0.73,^{7,8} in the IG/IH group = 0.03⁶ to 0.45⁸ (average proportion = 0.24), and in the instillation group = 0.03⁶ to 0.53⁷ (average proportion = 0.29). With a 2-sided type I error of 5% and study power at 80%, the number of patients required in each group to demonstrate a difference between the placebo group and the IG/IH group, or placebo group and instillation groups, was 24.

The demographic data of the groups was analyzed using either analysis of variance for parametric quantitative data or Kruskal-Wallis test for non-parametric quantitative data and χ^2 test for categorical data. The proportion of patients who required analgesic within 2, 4, and 6 hours was compared between the groups using the χ^2 test.

Table 1. Demographic Data

	NSS (n = 26)	BE20 (n = 26)	BE60 (n = 24)	IG/IH (n = 25)	P Value
Age (yr): median (IQR)	4 (3-6)	3 (2-5.5)	3.5 (2-5.5)	3 (2.5-5)	.52*
Weight (kg): median (IQR)	16.8 (15-22.5)	15 (11.5-17.5)	15.5 (12-21.5)	14 (12-20)	.26*
Male gender n (%)	23 (86)	22 (85)	22 (92)	23 (92)	.81†
Type of operation					
Hemic n (%)	17 (65)	16 (62)	15 (63)	16 (64)	.892†
Hydrocoel n (%)	9 (35)	10 (38)	9 (37)	9 (36)	

Abbreviations: IQR, interquartile range; NSS, 0.25 mL/kg normal saline instillation and remaining 20 or 60 seconds; BE20, 0.25 mL/kg 0.5% bupivacaine with epinephrine 5 µg/mL instillation and remaining 20 seconds; BE60, 0.25 mL/kg 0.5% bupivacaine with epinephrine 5 µg/mL instillation and remaining 60 seconds; IG/IH, 0.5 mL/kg 0.25% bupivacaine for ilioinguinal and iliohypogastric nerve block.

*Kruskal-Wallis test.

† χ^2 test.

Because not all patients required analgesic within 12 hours, Kaplan-Meier survival curve and Log-rank tests were applied to compare time to first analgesic between the 4 groups. A *P* value of <.05 was considered statistically significant. Two pairwise comparisons were performed by using Bonferroni method to adjust type I error due to multiple testing.

Results

A total of 103 patients were included in the study. One patient in group 2 and 1 patient in group 3 were eliminated from the study because their parents gave paracetamol for another reason (i.e., severe headache rather than wound pain). The ICC of pain scores rated by parents and research nurses was 0.977, and parents rated the ease of using CHBOPS as 3.43 ± 1.75 (0 = easiest, 10 = most difficult).

The patients in the 4 groups were comparable with regards to age, weight, sex, and type of

surgery (Table 1). Duration of surgery, anesthesia, recovery time, discharge time, and proportion of patients who were discharged within 4 hours were not different among groups (Table 2). One patient from group 1 and 1 patient from group 2 stayed in the hospital overnight because of severe vomiting. The need for analgesics within 2, 4, and 6 hours, including maximum CHBOPS scores in PACU, in groups 2, 3, and 4 were less than the placebo group, but not different from each other (Table 3). The median time to first analgesic of the placebo group was less than the other 3 groups (Table 3). There was no difference in the median time to first analgesic between groups 2, 3, and 4 (*P* = .5595). Five patients (20%) in the IG/IH group and 1 (4%) patient from the instillation BE20 group had a limping gait from a temporary ipsilateral femoral nerve palsy due to local anesthetic block. Nausea and vomiting were reported in 4 cases (15.4%) in group 1, 3 cases (11.5%) in group 2, 5 cases (20.8%) in group 3, and 2 cases (8%) in group 4.

Table 2. Duration of Surgery, Anesthesia, Recovery Time, Time to Discharge, and Proportion of Patients Who Were Discharged Within 4 Hours

	NSS (n = 26)	BE20 (n = 26)	BE60 (n = 24)	IG/IH (n = 25)	P Value
Operation time (min)					
Median (IQR)	35 (27.3-40)	32.5 (25-40)	36 (30-45)	35 (26.5-40)	.720*
Anesthesia time (min)					
Median (IQR)	45 (43.5-60)	45 (40-55)	50 (45-60)	50 (42.5-55)	.826*
Recovery time (min)					
Median (IQR)	27.5 (15-35)	35 (20-50)	30 (21.3-45)	35 (17.5-62.5)	.173†
Time to discharge (min)					
Mean (95% CI)	195 (179-211)	200.1 (187.3-214.3)	182.9 (164.5-201.3)	196.2 (163.1-209.3)	.4451†
Patients discharged within 4 hr					
n (%)	18 (68.2)	18 (69.2)	21 (87.5)	20 (80)	.350‡

Abbreviations: IQR, interquartile range; NSS, 0.25 mL/kg normal saline instillation and remaining 20 or 60 seconds; BE20, 0.25 mL/kg 0.5% bupivacaine with epinephrine 5 µg/mL instillation and remaining 20 seconds; BE60, 0.25 mL/kg 0.5% bupivacaine with epinephrine 5 µg/mL instillation and remaining 60 seconds; IG/IH, 0.5 mL/kg 0.25% bupivacaine for ilioinguinal and iliohypogastric nerve block; CI, confidence interval.

*Kruskal-Wallis test.

†Log rank test.

‡ χ^2 test.

Table 3. Number of Patients Requiring Analgesic, Time to First Analgesic, and Maximum CHEOPS Score in PACU

	NSS (n = 26)	BE20 (n = 26)	BE60 (n = 24)	IG/IH (n = 25)	P Value
Patients requiring analgesics					
within 2 hr, n (%)	19 (73.1)	8 (31.1)	5 (20.8)	4 (16)	<.001*
within 4 hr, n (%)	19 (73.1)	9 (34.6)	8 (33.3)	6 (24)	.003*
within 6 hr, n (%)	21 (80.8)	11 (42.3)	11 (45.8)	9 (36)	.008*
Time to first analgesics (min)					
Median (95%CI)	50 (25.0-75.0)	420 (297.5-542.4)	525 (134.5-915.1)	425 (310.5-639.2)	<.0001†
Maximum CHEOPS scores in PACU					
Median (IQR)	11.5 (5.75-12)	5.5 (5-10)	6 (5-7.75)	5 (5-7.5)	.001‡

Abbreviations: IQR, interquartile range; CHEOPS, The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Pain Scale; NSS, 0.25 mL/kg normal saline instillation and remaining 20 or 60 seconds; BE20, 0.25 mL/kg 0.5% bupivacaine with epinephrine 5 µg/mL instillation and remaining 20 seconds; BE60, 0.25 mL/kg 0.5% bupivacaine with epinephrine 5 µg/mL instillation and remaining 60 seconds; IG/IH, 0.5 mL/kg 0.25% bupivacaine for ilioinguinal and iliohypogastric nerve block; PACU, postanesthesia care unit.

* χ^2 test.

†Log rank test.

‡Kruskal-Wallis test.

Discussion

Instillation of 0.5% bupivacaine with epinephrine 5 µg/mL for only 20 or 60 seconds before wound closure provided postoperative analgesia in children undergoing herniorrhaphy and hydrocelectomy. The analgesic effect was equal to an ilioinguinal and iliohypogastric nerve block and clearly superior to the instillation of saline. The proportion of patients in the 20-second and 60-second instillation groups and the IG/IH group who required rescue analgesics within 2, 4, and 6 hours was one third to one half that required in the placebo group. The median time to first analgesic in the instillation groups and IG/IH group was about 8 to 10 times longer than the placebo group. The effectiveness of IG/IH was comparable to the instillation of bupivacaine and epinephrine.

The rate of rescue analgesic administration within 2, 4, and 6 hours in the placebo group was 73.1%, 73.1%, and 80.8%, respectively, which is similar to the results of previous studies (73%).^{7,8} The requirement for rescue analgesics in the IG/IH group within 2 hours (16%) was higher than reported by Casey et al.⁶ (3%). In addition, the proportion of patients in instillation groups who required analgesics within 2 hours (BE20 group, 23.1%; BE60 group, 20.8%) was also higher than in the study by Casey et al.⁶ (3%). These differences may be due to several reasons. Poor technique of IG/IH block in our study might have led to an incomplete block. We did not control the anesthesiologists who performed the block because we would like to apply the results to general anesthetic practice. Also, the longer time that local anesthetic solution remained in the muscle layer and in the subcutaneous layer in Casey's technique (2 minutes) might affect the quality of block. Moreover,

some children experiencing emergence delirium may have been misinterpreted as having pain and received rescue analgesia as a result.

To improve physician compliance with the instillation technique, this study demonstrated the feasibility of wound instillation involving muscle and subcutaneous layers for only 20 and 60 seconds. We provided effective analgesia by increasing the mass of bupivacaine from 0.25% solution to a 0.5% solution and adding epinephrine to reduce systemic absorption. Increasing the instillation time of the drug to 60 seconds before swabbing did not improve analgesia as compared with an instillation time of 20 seconds. It is unlikely that iliohypogastric and ilioinguinal nerves could be effectively blocked by the small amount of bupivacaine left surrounding them.

Ethical concerns regarding a placebo-controlled analgesic study were ameliorated by the ready availability of rescue analgesics to treat mild pain (CHEOPS ≥ 7). This format also allowed observations regarding the natural history of pain and analgesic requirements in children after herniorrhaphy and hydrocelectomy. About 20% of the children in the normal saline group did not require analgesics within 6 hours after surgery.

An ilioinguinal and iliohypogastric block is effective, but requires special training. This procedure may also cause unsatisfactory wound edema. An ipsilateral femoral nerve palsy was found in the IG/IH group more frequently because a larger volume of local anesthetic was injected into the plane between the transversus abdominis muscle and the transversalis fascia with this technique. This plane connects laterally with the tissue plane deep to the fascia iliacus, which contains the femoral nerve.¹⁴

Measurement of pain in children was difficult,

especially when most of them could not be assessed by the research nurses due to the prolonged pain-free period. Some patients went home before the first analgesic was required. Measurement bias was minimized by training parents to use a standard scale (CHBOPS), which has been cross-validated in our culture.¹² A test of parents' ability to use CHBOPS yielded high agreement with research nurses and ease in scoring. In addition, the results showed that the proportion of patients who required analgesic within 4 and 6 hours showed a similar trend to those within 2 hours, which were recorded by research nurses.

In summary, this study showed that wound instillation of 0.5% bupivacaine 0.25 mL/kg with epinephrine 5 µg/mL could provide effective postoperative pain relief after inguinal hernia repair and hydrocelectomy. A difference between instillation technique and ilioinguinal iliohypogastric block could not be demonstrated in this study. A short instillation time of 20 seconds is as effective as 60 seconds.

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were characterized as *stx2/stx2vh-a* by PCR-restriction fragment length polymorphism.

To our knowledge, this is the first HUS case in our country in which the source of infection was identified. No investigation was conducted to trace back the source of the ground beef. This study illustrates the importance of the surveillance of STEC infections and the usefulness of molecular subtyping techniques, such as PFGE and phage typing, to determine the relatedness of strains and assess epidemiologic associations.

The public should be made aware that hamburgers, even when prepared at home, can be a source of infection. A primary strategy for preventing infection with *E. coli* O157:H7 is reducing risk behaviors through consumer education (10).

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Q Fever in Thailand

To the Editor: *Coxiella burnetii*, a strict intracellular bacterium, is the etiologic agent of Q fever, a worldwide zoonosis. Humans are infected by inhaling contaminated aerosols from amniotic fluid or placenta or handling contaminated wool (1). The bacterium is highly infectious by the aerosol route. Two forms of the disease are typical: acute and chronic. Acute Q fever is the primary infection and in specific hosts may become chronic (1,2). The major clinical manifestations of acute Q fever are pneumonia and hepatitis. Less common clinical manifestations are aseptic meningitis and/or encephalitis, pancreatitis, lymphadenopathy that mimics lymphoma, erythema nodosum, bone marrow necrosis, hemolytic anemia, and splenic rupture (2). The main clinical manifestation of the chronic form is culture-negative endocarditis, but infection of vascular grafts or aneurysms, hepatitis, osteomyelitis, and prolonged fever have also been described (1,2). Fluoroquinolones, co-trimoxazole, and doxycycline are active against *C. burnetii* in vitro, and ceftriaxone has been shown to have a bacteriostatic effect and could be effective in the phagolysosome of *C. burnetii*-infected cells (3). However, the treatment of choice for Q fever is doxycycline.

The incidence of this disease is largely unknown, especially in Asia. Q fever has been reported from Japan and China (1). Seroepidemiologic surveys have shown that subclinical infection is common worldwide. Large outbreaks of Q fever have also been reported in many countries in Europe (4). A case series of acute Q fever was diagnosed in a prospective study in patients with acute febrile illness who were admitted to four hospitals in northeastern Thailand: Udornthani Hospital, Udornthani Province; Maharat Nakhon Ratchasima Hospital, Nakhon Ratchasima Pro-

vince; Loei Hospital, Loei Province; and Banmai Chaiyapod Hospital, Buri Ram Province. Two serum samples were taken from these patients, on admission and at a 2- to 4-week outpatient follow-up visit, and stored at -20°C until serologic tests were performed at the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, and the National Research Institute of Health, Public Health Ministry of Thailand. All serum samples were tested for the serologic diagnosis of leptospirosis, scrub typhus, murine typhus, and dengue infection as previously described (5,6). After these serologic tests were performed, serum samples from patients with unknown diagnosis were sent for the serologic test for Q fever at Unité des Rickettsies, Faculté de Médecine, Marseille, France. The microimmuno-fluorescent antibody test, using a panel antigen of *C. burnetii*, *Rickettsia honei*, *R. helvetica*, *R. japonica*, *R. felis*, *R. typhi*, *Bartonella henselae*, *B. quintana*, *Anaplasma phagocytophila*, and *Orientia tsutsugamushi*, was used as described previously (6).

A total of 1,171 serum specimens from 678 patients were tested for Q fever. Nine patients (1.3%, eight male and one female) fulfilled the diagnosis of acute Q fever. The median age was 42 (range 15–62) years. All patients were rice farmers, and their farm animals were chicken and cattle. The median duration of fever was 3 (range 1–7) days before admission into the hospital. When initially seen,

all patients had acute febrile illness, headache, and generalized myalgia (i.e., a flulike syndrome). Clinical manifestations of acute Q fever in these patients ranged from this flulike syndrome (three patients), pneumonitis (one patient), hepatitis (two patients), pneumonitis and renal dysfunction (one patient), hepatitis and renal dysfunction (one patient), to severe myocarditis and acute renal failure (one patient). An epidemic of leptospirosis has been occurring in Thailand since 1996 (7). All patients in this study received a diagnosis of either leptospirosis or acute fever of undefined cause; therefore, empirical therapy, including penicillin G sodium, doxycycline, and cefotaxime or ceftriaxone, was administered. The patient with hepatic and renal dysfunction was treated with co-trimoxazole. The patient who had severe myocarditis and acute renal failure was treated with a penicillin G sodium and doxycycline combination. He also received a dopamine infusion and hemodialysis. The median duration between admission and a reduction of fever was 3 days (range 1–7) in this case series.

Results of several seroprevalence studies, using the complement fixation test, conducted in both humans and animals suggest that *C. burnetii* infection has been widespread in Thailand since 1966 (8). The prevalence in asymptomatic persons varies from 0.4% to 2.6% (9), and studies in domestic animals show that the highest prevalence of this infection occurs

in dogs (28.1%). The prevalence in goats, sheep, and cattle varies from 2.3% to 6.1% (9). However, this clinical case series of acute Q fever is the first diagnosed in this country. The disease was diagnosed in patients in four hospitals, situated in various parts of the northeastern region of Thailand. These data confirmed that Q fever is widespread in this country. The disease had been unrecognized previously because the specific serologic test was not widely available in Thailand.

A self-limited course was suspected in four cases in this series. However, severe cases, especially those with myocarditis, could be fatal. Therefore, doxycycline should be an empirical therapy for patients with acute febrile illness in areas where leptospirosis, scrub typhus, and acute Q fever are suspected, such as in rural Thailand. Further studies to investigate the epidemiology of Q fever in this country are needed.

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Correction, Vol. 9, No. 8

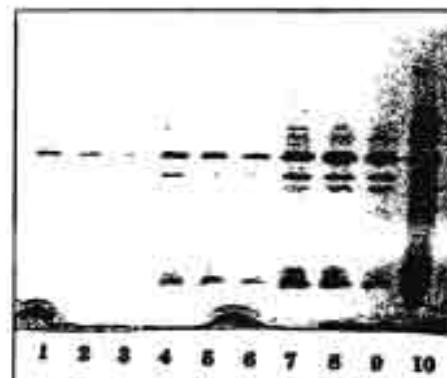
In "Emerging Pathogens of Wild Amphibians in Frogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) Farmed for International Trade," by Rolando Mazzoni et al., errors occurred in the figure legend on page 996.

The correct caption to the Figure appears below:

Figure. a and b, histopathologic findings from infected frogs. Characteristic sporangia (s) containing zoospores (z) are visible in the epidermis (asterisk, superficial epidermis; arrow, septum within an empty sporangium; bar, 10 μ m). c, Skin smear from infected frog, stained with 1:1 cotton blue and 10% aqueous potassium hydroxide (aq KOH) (D, developing stages of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*; arrow, septum within a sporangium; bar, 10 μ m). d, Electron micrograph of an empty sporangium showing diagnostic septum (arrow) (bar, 2 μ m).

Correction, Vol. 9, No. 8

In the article "NmcA Carbapenem-hydrolyzing Enzyme in *Enterobacter cloacae* in North America," by Sudha Pottumarthy et al., an error occurred in the quality of the printing of Figure 3. A revised figure appears below. A color version is available from: URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol9no8/03-0096-G3.htm>



We regret any confusion this error may have caused.

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Original Article

บินต์กันบัน

การให้บริการผู้ติดเชื้อเอดส์ให้กับ กับโรงพยาบาลศิริราช

วิชาภาษาไทย พลเมืองที่•

ឧបនគរណ៍ កិច្ចការអាមេរិក**

วิษณุ ธรรมลิพิตาจ**

“ก้าวเดินต่อไปในทิศทางเดียวกัน” “ก้าวเดินต่อไปในทิศทางเดียวกัน”

ANSWER

ກ່າວກົງ: ການຕິດເບືອນຂອງໄລ້, ເລກ໌, ປ່ຽນກັນສ້າງເນ, ການຫ້ານຂອງໄລ້...

๖๗๙

โรคติดเชื้อไวรัสที่ก่อการพ่ายแพ่องคุกคักในมนุษย์ (Human Immunodeficiency Virus; HIV) เป็นปัจจัยสำคัญที่สำคัญของประเทศไทย โดยเป็นสาเหตุ

สำหรับผู้ของความรักและการต่อสู้ของมนุษย์ ๒๐
ถึง ๔๐ ปีซึ่งเป็นประชากลุ่มที่อยู่ในรั้วทำงานและเป็น^{๑๔}
กำลังสำคัญของประเทศไทย ผู้ที่อยู่ในรั้วตั้งก่อสร้างจำนวน
มากเป็นผู้ประทับใจในระบบประทับใจของคน ในรัฐฯ ๕๐

ในปัจจุบันยาต้านเชื้อไวรัสราคาก็ถูกมาก และประเทศไทยสามารถผลิตได้เอง. ดังนั้นกองทุนประกันสังคมมีจะพิจารณาไว้วัฒยาท่านเชื้อไวรัสในชุดสิทธิ์ประกันชีวินส์สำหรับผู้ประกันตนที่มีการติดเชื้อเชื้อไวรัส แม้ร้าวทั้งเพศ พ.ศ. ๒๕๖๔ สำนักงานประกันสังคมจะจัดสรรงบประมาณเพิ่มเติมให้กับส่วนพยาบาลที่ลงทะเบียนผู้ป่วยติดเชื้อเชื้อไวรัส ซึ่งจะเป็นโรคเรื้อรังโรคหนึ่งใน ๒ โรคที่ลงทะเบียนก็ตาม. งบประมาณที่ส่วนพยาบาลได้รับเพิ่มเติมก็ยังไม่เพียงพอ ท่องการให้การรักษาผู้ป่วยติดเชื้อเชื้อไวรัสและผู้ป่วยเก็บไข้ห้วยหนามไม่ได้ช่วยยาท่านเชื้อไวรัสจากส่วนพยาบาลด้วยงบประมาณดังกล่าว. ศกนจะผู้วิจัยชุดทำการศึกษาโดยมีชุดประกันส์ เพื่อประเมินจำนวนและค่าใช้จ่ายในการ

รักษาพยาบาลอย่างดีที่สุดเพื่อเชื่อใจว่าที่ประทับนั้นเก็บไว้
พยาบาลอย่างดีไว้ไว้ และเปรียบเทียบค่าใช้จ่ายในการให้
บริการโดยไม่ได้ย่าตัวน้อยใจว่าเก็บทุกรายให้บริการโดยให้
ยาตัวน้อยใจว่า เพื่อประกันการพิจารณาความยาตัวน
น้อยใจว่าในสิ่งดีที่สุดให้กับทุกคน

תְּאַתִּים

ศึกษาจากเวชระเบียนของผู้ป่วยกันคนกันไว้
พยาบาลติดไวรัส และรับบทการติดไวรัสพยาบาลติดไวรัส
ระหว่างวันที่ ๐ มกราคม ถึงวันที่ ๓๐ ธันวาคม พ.ศ. ๒๕๖๖
เฉพาะที่เกี่ยวข้องกับการติดเชื้อเชื้อไวรัส เท่านั้น ไม่
รวมถึงความเจ็บป่วยอื่นๆ ที่ไม่เกี่ยวข้องกับการติดเชื้อ
เชื้อไวรัส เช่น อุบัติเหตุ เป็นต้น นำเข้ามูส เพศ อาชญา
กรรมทั่วไป การรับยาท้านเชื้อไวรัส และค่าใช้จ่าย
ในการรักษาพยาบาลของผู้ป่วย น้ำวิเคราะห์โดยใช้สอดดิ
เพิ่มพูนอีก

Classification

ในรอบปี พ.ศ. ๒๕๕๘ มีผู้เอาประกันตนกับโรงเรียนจำนวนกว่า ๕๐,๐๐๐ คน และมีผู้มาใช้บริการประกันนายนักเรียน ๒๐,๐๐๐ คน ซึ่งรวมผู้ป่วยที่ติดเชื้อเอชไอวี ๒๖๔ ราย (ร้อยละ ๐.๑ ของผู้ที่มาใช้บริการ) หรือร้อยละ ๐.๔๔ ของผู้ประกันตนกับโรงเรียน

การวิเคราะห์เจาะเป็นช่องๆปัจจัยที่มีการติดเชื้อ เชื้อไอวี, 200 ราย (ร้อยละ 40) พบเชื้อยูส ทั้งปี

๙. ตั้งงบประมาณไว้ในเบื้องต้นปีงบประมาณ

ចូបាយបើបានចាប់ ៨៣២ រាយ (វិរិយត័រ ៦៤) ឡើងបើបាន
អាណីង ៨៣ រាយ (វិរិយត័រ ៧៤), ចាប់ឱ្យនៅថ្ងៃ ៣ មិថុនា
ដែលបានរាយការជាមុន ៨ មិថុនា ឆ្នាំ ២០ ចាប់ស្នើសុំ ៦០
មិថុនា.

๔. จำนวนผู้ป่วยที่ควรได้รับยาด้านเครื่องใจว่า

ผู้ป่วย ๑๗๔ ราย (ร้อยละ ๔๔) มีเชื้อปอดซึ่งติดเชื้อที่สมควรให้รับยาต้านเชื้อไวรัส คือมีจำนวนเชื้อตัว CD4 น้อยกว่า ๒๐๐, มีอาการของເຫຼັດ หรือมีการติดเชื้อ

รายโครงการ. ผู้ป่วย ๗๓ ราย (ร้อยละ ๖.๔) ไม่มีชื่อปองที่
ร่างกายเป็นต้องได้รับยาด้านเชื้อไวรัส. ผู้ป่วยอีก ๑๕ ราย
ไม่มีชื่อระบุและยังพอที่จะพิจารณาได้ว่ามีชื่อปองที่จะได้
รับยาด้านเชื้อไวรัสไม่. หากทราบผู้ป่วยกลุ่มนี้ให้ใน
กลุ่มที่ควรได้รับยาด้านเชื้อไวรัส จะทำให้มีผู้ป่วยที่ควรได้
รับยาด้านเชื้อไวรัสจำนวนทั้งสิ้น ๙๘๐ ราย (ร้อยละ ๘๗).

๗. การนำร่องการและค่าใช้จ่ายของผู้ป่วย การนำร่องการแบบผู้ป่วยนอกและค่าใช้จ่าย

ผู้ป่วยมากับบริการแบบผู้ป่วยนอก 9,154 คน
เดือน ก.พ. คนส่วนใหญ่เป็น ไทยมีค่าใช้จ่ายในการรักษา
ทั้งหมด ๘๘๖,๐๘๐ บาท คิดเป็นค่าเดือน ๘๙๐ บาทต่อ^๑
คนรึ (ค่าท่านุชต ๐ บาทและค่าสูงสุด ๔,๖๖๖ บาท) หรือ
คิดเป็นค่าเดือน ๔๙๖๖ บาทต่อผู้ป่วย ๑ บาท

การนำร่องนวัตกรรมแบบทึบปبابในทดสอบค่าใช้จ่าย

ผู้ป่วยจำนวน ๔๗ ราย (ร้อยละ ๒๗) ได้รับการรักษาในโรงพยาบาลโดยมีจำนวนครั้งของการอยู่ในโรงพยาบาลคราวทั้งสิ้น ๖๙ ครั้ง คิดเป็น ๐.๔ ครั้งต่อผู้ป่วย ที่รับให้รักษาในโรงพยาบาลต่อปี หรือ ๐.๓ ครั้งต่อผู้ป่วยทั้งหมดต่อปี. ระยะเวลาของ การรักษาในโรงพยาบาลคราวทั้งสิ้น ๖๗๗ วัน ในไทยมีระยะเวลาเฉลี่ย ๑๙.๕ วันต่อการอยู่ในโรงพยาบาล ๐ ครั้ง หรือ ๗.๓ วันต่อผู้ป่วย ๐ รายต่อปี. สาใช้ช่วยในการรักษาทั้งหมด ๐,๘๐๐,๖๗๐ บาท โดยคิดเป็นค่าเฉลี่ย ๑๗,๖๙๕ บาทต่อการรักษาในโรงพยาบาล ๐ ครั้ง หรือคิดเป็นค่าเฉลี่ย ๗๗,๔๙๗ บาทต่อผู้ป่วยที่ได้รักษาในโรงพยาบาล ๐ รายต่อปี.

គោរីមិន្ទាយរាម

สำหรับการรักษาผู้ป่วยทั้งหมดความเป็นเงิน
๒,๐๔๔,๔๗๒ บาทต่อปี

ପ୍ରକାଶକୀ

ผู้ประทับนั่งไว้ที่พยานบารมีวิริยะวิริยะที่มีการติดเชือกเชือกไชร์ มือที่ทำการมารับบริการและค่าใช้จ่ายในการรักษาพยาบาลสูงกว่าผู้ประทับนั่งทั่วไปที่ไม่มีการติดเชือกเชือกไชร์ ในระหว่างเวลาเดียวกัน ก่อสร้างคือ ผู้

ประกับคนที่นำไปของโวงพยานมาสืบว่าในปี พ.ศ. ๒๕๕๘
นารีบันกิจกรรมแยงคุ้งปะยนอุบัติประทีกัน ๐.๙ ครั้งที่ออกบกต่อไป
โดยมีค่าใช้จ่ายเดือนละประมาณ ๗๒๐ บาทที่ออกหัก. สูง
ประกับคนที่นำไปให้รับการรักษาในโวงพยานมาส ๒๖๐
บาทเดือนละประมาณ ๐.๖๐ ครั้งที่ออกบกต่อไป หักประมาณ ๐.๓
วันที่ออกบกต่อไป; โดยมีระยะเวลาเดือนละข้อของกิจกรรมในโวง
พยานมาสประมาณ ๔ วัน, และค่าใช้จ่ายเดือนละที่ออกหักของ
การรักษาในโวงพยานมาสประมาณ ๑๓,๘๐๔ บาท.^(๑๔)

ค่าใช้จ่ายในการรักษาผู้ป่วยประจำเดือนก็จะโรง
พยาบาลต่อเดือนที่มีการติดเชื้อเชื้อไข้หรือห้วยทั้งหมดรวม
เป็นเงิน ๒๐,๐๐๐.๕๗๘ บาทต่อปี ค่าใช้จ่ายดังกล่าวเป็น
เป็นค่าใช้จ่ายเฉพาะค่าวัสดุยาเสื่อมโดยตรง (direct
medical cost) เท่านั้น ยังมีได้รวมค่าใช้จ่ายที่ไม่เกี่ยว
กับการรักษาโดยตรง (เช่น ค่าเดินทาง ค่าอาหาร ค่าที่
พักของผู้ป่วยและญาติจากการที่มาเข้ารับการรักษา
ที่โรงพยาบาล) ค่าใช้จ่ายอันๆ ที่เป็น Indirect cost เท่าน
ค่าสูญเสียที่เกิดจากภาระงาน และจากภาระภัยเงยบอน
ข้ออันควรซึ่งมีมูลค่ามากกว่า ๐ ล้านบาท และ Intan-
gible cost (ค่าใช้จ่ายที่เกิดจากความเจ็บป่วยทางจิต
ใจและทางสังคม รวมทั้งคุณภาพชีวิตของผู้ป่วยที่ไม่ได้
รับการรักษาด้วยยาเดียวเช่นไข้หรือ) ทั้งนี้ค่าใช้จ่ายโดย
รวมในการรักษาผู้ป่วยโดยไม่ให้ยาด้านเดียวเช่นไข้ (direct
medical cost + indirect cost) จะประมาณไม่ต่ำกว่า
สามล้านบาท ซึ่งหากผู้ป่วยได้รับการรักษาด้วยยาเดียว
เช่นไข้หรือทั้งหมดในราษฎร์ ป่าจะลดค่าใช้จ่ายจากการ
รักษาอย่างมากความเจ็บป่วยที่เกี่ยวข้องกับการติดเชื้อ
เช่นไข้ คงได้ลดลงน้อยร้อยละ ๕๐.

ยาใช้รักษาผู้ป่วยตัวบวมที่รักษาด้วยยาต้านเชื้อไวรัสที่มีประสิทธิภาพสูงคือ stavudine, lamivudine และ nevirapine โดยเป็นวิธารายาใน ๒ สเตปค่าที่แข็งตัวของยา ๒ ชานานดังกล่าวแยกกันคิดเป็นยาใช้รักษาประมาณ ๐.๘๐๐ บาท ทั้งนี้หากน้ำนมจะได้รับยา GPOvir (Stavudine + Lamivudine + Nevirapine ในเม็ดเดียวกัน) กินตัวละ ๑ ครั้ง คิดเป็นเงินประมาณ ๐.๖๐๐ บาท (ผู้ป่วยนำหน้ากากศีรษะอย่างตัว ๒๐ กิโลกรัม) ถึง ๐.๗๐๐ บาท (ผู้ป่วย

นำหนักตัวมากกว่า ๒๐ กิโลกรัม) ต่อเดือน ตั้งมื้นค่ำยาต้านเชื้อไวรัสต่อเดือนประมาณ ๑๕,๖๐๐ บาท มีถึง ๑๖,๖๐๐ บาท หรือตัวจะประมาณ ๔๐ บาท ผู้ป่วยที่ได้รับยาต้านเชื้อไวรัส ควรได้รับการตรวจร่างกายเบล็ค CD4 มีฉะ ๒ ครั้งติดกันที่ได้รับยาประมาณ ๕,๐๐๐ บาท และควรได้รับการตรวจทางท้องปฏิบัติการอื่นๆ ปีละ ๑-๒ ครั้งติดกันที่ได้รับยาประมาณ ๖๐๐ บาท ตั้งมื้นค่าใช้จ่ายในการรักษาผู้ป่วยที่ติดเชื้อไวรัส ด้วยยาต้านไวรัสโดยผู้ป่วยไม่ได้รักษาตัวเองจากทางรักษาด้วยยาตั้งแต่ล่าสุด และไม่ได้รักษาตัวเองโดยทางบ้านมีฉะ ๑๖,๖๐๐ ถึง ๑๘,๖๐๐ บาท ติดต่อปีนี้เป็นค่าใช้จ่ายตั้งแต่ ๑๙ มีถึง ๒๐ บาท ตั้งนี้ หากผู้ป่วยกินคนกับโรงพยาบาลศรีวิรารามในปีพ.ศ. ๒๕๔๔ ที่มีการติดเชื้อไวรัส ได้รับยาต้านเชื้อไวรัสติดต่อปีนี้เป็นค่าใช้จ่ายประมาณ ๑๖,๖๐๐ บาท ซึ่งมีฉะ ๕๐๐ บาท ค่าเดินทางเพิ่มค่าใช้จ่ายในการรักษาผู้ป่วยโดยไม่ได้ให้ยาต้านเชื้อไวรัสกับบุตรที่บ้าน ที่ไม่สามารถแบ่งปันเป็นค่าใช้จ่ายให้ทางได้ เช่น คุณภาพชีวิตของผู้ป่วย ชรัฐและกำลังใช้จ่ายของผู้ป่วยกินคน ผลผลิต (productivity) จากการทำงาน เป็นต้น.

สำหรับผู้ป่วยที่ไม่สามารถใช้ยาตั้งแต่ล่าสุดได้เนื่องจากแพ้ยา (พบได้น้อย) หรือจากการติดเชื้อตัวเองต้องได้รับยาอื่นที่มีค่าใช้จ่ายเพิ่มมากขึ้น.

ตั้งนี้สำนักงานประกันสังคมควรพิจารณาให้ผู้ป่วยกินคนสามารถเบิกจ่ายยาต้านเชื้อไวรัสจากกองทุนประกันสังคมได้ เมื่อจาก

๑. การรักษาด้วยยาต้านเชื้อไวรัสจะคุ้มค่าหากช่วยเหลือดีในระยะนี้.

๒. ค่าใช้จ่ายของการรักษาด้วยยาต้านเชื้อไวรัสในปัจจุบันประมาณตั้งแต่ ๔๐ บาทเท่านั้น และมีแนวโน้มจะลดลงต่อไป ซึ่งค่าใช้จ่ายตั้งแต่ล่าสุดไม่ต่างจากค่าใช้จ่ายในการรักษาโรคเรื้อรังอื่นๆ เช่น โรคเบาหวาน โรคความดันโลหิตสูง ซึ่งมีจำนวนผู้ป่วยมากกว่าผู้ป่วยที่ติดเชื้อไวรัส และผู้ป่วยเหล่านี้ก็ต้องการการรักษาตลอดชีวิตเช่นกัน.

๓. ค่าใช้จ่ายของการรักษาด้วยยาต้านเชื้อไวรัส ไม่ขึ้น

ก่าว่าค่าใช้จ่ายในการรักษาผู้ป่วยโรคเรื้อรัง ที่สำนักงานประกันสังคมรับผิดชอบค่าใช้จ่ายเพิ่มเติมอยู่ในปัจจุบัน เช่น การรักษาในโรงพยาบาลในสูงป่วยให้หายเรื้อรัง (ประมาณมีฉะ ๔๐๐,๐๐๐ บาท) การรักษาผู้ป่วยมะเร็งตัวอย่างเป็นปัจจุบัน (ประมาณมีฉะ ๔๐,๐๐๐ บาท) การเปลี่ยนไตและการปลูกถ่ายไขกระดูกซึ่งรวมค่าใช้จ่ายในการรักษา เป็นต้น.

๔. หุบงการชีวิตและผลกระทบของผู้ป่วยติดเชื้อไวรัส ที่ได้รับการรักษาด้วยยาต้านเชื้อไวรัส สำนักงานประกันสังคมรับผิดชอบตัวอย่างๆ ที่ก่อสร้างมีในตัว ๑ และ ๒ เมื่อจากผู้ป่วยที่ติดเชื้อไวรัส มักมีอายุน้อยกว่าผู้ป่วยโรคเรื้อรังอื่นๆ (อายุเฉลี่ยของผู้ติดเชื้อไวรัสประมาณ ๓๐ ปี) และมีอายุที่ประมาณนี้ให้สังคมได้มากกว่าและนานกว่า.

๕. องค์การอนามัยโลกได้บรรจุยาต้านเชื้อไวรัส ๗ ชนิดที่สำคัญไว้ในรายการบัญชียาตั้ง (Essential Medicines Model List) เมื่อศัลป. พ.ศ. ๒๕๔๔ แล้ว.

๖. มีแนวโน้มว่ายาต้านเชื้อไวรัสจะมีอยู่ในบัญชียาตั้งแห่งชาติของประเทศไทย โดยกรมควบคุมโรค กระทรวงสาธารณสุขได้ขอให้คณะกรรมการพิจารณาบัญชียาตั้งแห่งชาติเร่งบรรจุยาต้านเชื้อไวรัสไว้ในบัญชียาตั้งแห่งชาติ เมื่อจากต้องการให้สถานพยาบาลของกระทรวงสาธารณสุขสามารถรับใช้ในประมาณของผู้ป่วยอย่างตั้งต่อว่าเพื่อให้บริการแก่ผู้ป่วยที่ว่าไปได้.

ข้อเสนอแนะ

หากสำนักงานประกันสังคมจะรับผิดชอบค่าใช้จ่ายของยาต้านเชื้อไวรัสที่ได้รับผู้ป่วยกินคน สำนักงานประกันสังคมควรพิจารณาและเตรียมวางแผนทั้งๆ ดังนี้

๑. จำนวนผู้ป่วยกินคนที่ติดเชื้อไวรัส

จากข้อมูลของสำนักงานประกันสังคมในรอบปี ๒๕๔๔ ผู้ป่วยกินคนสำนักงานประกันสังคมทั้งสิ้น ๕๔๔ ล้านคน ให้มีผู้ลงคะแนนผู้ป่วยโรคเรื้อรังราย ๐.๑ รายที่ติดเชื้อไวรัสไวรัสประมาณ ๔,๐๐๐ ราย (ร้อยละ ๐.๗) อย่างไรก็ตาม ผู้ป่วยที่ลงคะแนนว่ามีการติดเชื้อไวรัส

เป็นชั้นนานั้นผู้ป่วยที่มีอยู่ที่สุภาพท่านนั้น กจะจะมีผู้ประจำกับคน
และมีการติดเชื้อเช่นไอล์วิธิกส่วนที่มีงตัวไม่ได้มีมาสรับ
บริการจากสถานพยาบาลที่รับทะเบียนนี้ไว้ เมื่อจะจาก
บ้านชั้นทางฯ เช่น บ้านค้านเชื้อไว้มิได้รวมอยู่ในบุคคลเดียว
ประจำอยู่ที่สุภาพรับผู้ป่วยกับคน. ไม่ต้องการเมียหรือภรรยาคน
ป่วยเป็นโรคนี้ เมินดัน. หากส่วนนักงานประจำกับสังคม
ต้องการค่าตอบแทนก้อนค่าใช้จ่ายที่แบนเป็นปีก็จำเป็นต้อง
ศึกษาว่าผู้ป่วยติดเชื้อเช่นไอล์ ที่มิได้มาลงทะเบียนไว้
เรื่องห้องน้ำมาก-น้อยเทียบกับ ในการมีค่าครัวชั้นนานั้น
ผู้ป่วยติดเชื้อเช่นไอล์ทั้งหมดไม่เกิน ๑๐,๐๐๐ ราย.

สำหรับงานวันถัดไปที่จะเพิ่มขึ้นในแต่ละปี ยังไม่ทราบได้ชัดเจน แต่สำนักงานประภากันตั้งคณะกรรมการทราบข้อมูลเบื้องต้นได้จาก การเบริกบานเพียงชานานถัดไปติดเชือดเชือด ให้ก็คงจะเป็นไปได้ในปี พ.ศ. ๒๕๕๕ เพื่อสนับสนุนปี พ.ศ. ๒๕๕๖ สำหรับผู้ประภากันทันทีในปี พ.ศ. ๒๕๕๖ แต่ติดเชือดเชือด ให้ก็คงจะเป็นไปได้ในปี พ.ศ. ๒๕๕๖

๒. ภาระทางการเงินของบ้านเมือง

ร้อยเปอร์เซ็นของการให้ยาต้านเชื้อไวรัสได้แก่ ผู้ป่วยที่มีจำนวนเชลล์ CD4 น้อยกว่า 400. หรือ ผู้ป่วยที่มีอาการรุนแรง得多ที่สุด. หรือผู้ป่วยที่มีการติดเชื้ออย่างมาก. หากให้ยาป้องกันนี้ จะมีจำนวนผู้ที่ควรได้รับยาต้านเชื้อไวรัสอยู่ ๔๐ ๖๐ ๘๐ หรือประมาณ ๕,๐๐๐ หรือ ๘,๐๐๐

๗. ประการของยาที่อยู่ในชุดสิทธิประโยชน์

ผู้ป่วยควรได้รับการรักษาด้วยยาชีวนรักษานาน
ยาพื้นฐานที่ควรอยู่ในชุดสิทธิประโยชน์ คือ, stavudine,
lamivudine และ nevirapine เมื่อจะเป็นยาที่มี
ประสิทธิภาพสูง, ปลอดภัย, ราคายังไม่แพง และสามารถ

ผลิตได้ในประเทศไทยโดยองค์การเภสัชกรรม. สำหรับผู้ป่วยที่แพ้ยา (โดยเฉพาะ, nevirapine ซึ่งพบการแพ้บ่อยกว่ายาอื่น ๆ ขนาด). ที่รือติดเชื้อเอชไอวีที่ต้องยาหงอกฟ้า. ที่จำเป็นต้องใช้ยานานนั้นนิยม ซึ่งจะรักษาให้ยากร้าวและห้องใช้ยาที่มีราคาแพงมาก และควรให้รักษาห้องจากผู้ป่วยรายอื่น. สำนักงานประทับนั่งคนครัวรับผิดชอบสำหรับยา (โดยเฉพาะยาที่นิยม ต. ขนาดทึบก่อสร้างและยา zidovudine ซึ่งใช้ในการป้องกันการติดเชื้อเอชไอวีของพาร์ทเนอร์ในครรภ์.

๔. งบประมาณที่ต้องใช้ และระบบการต่อรองแผนฯ ให้เข้ากับแผนอุดหนุนทางการค้า

๒. การตรวจสอบและการติดตามประเมินผล

สำนักงานประภันสังคมฯ ต้องมีระบบให้สถานพยาบาลถูกต้องที่รักษาสูบป่วยดีเด่นเช่นเดียวกับการบันทึกข้อมูลที่แม่นยำและครบถ้วนตามแบบบันทึกข้อมูลที่สำนักงานประภันสังคมจัดทำขึ้น เป็นอย่างมาก ปัจจุบันจะต้องให้รับการรักษาด้วยยาที่ถูกต้องและป้องกัน

พากษา

ເລືອນໄຫວ	ຍາກປ່ຽນມາພ່ອຄົງ (ສ້າງນາມ)
ຮາບອະນຸໄໝເກີນ ២០,០០០ ບາກຄ່ອນປີ ຈໍານວນ ៥,០០០ ໣	៥០
ຮາບອະນຸໄໝເກີນ ១៥,០០០ ບາກຄ່ອນປີ ຈໍານວນ ៥,០០០ ໣	១.៥៥

๔. การแก้ไขศูนย์และหัวเมืองการเมืองกับการพัฒนาเมืองอย่างยั่งยืนในที่ประทับคานทรี

สำนักงานประกำกันสังคมจะต้องมีระบบการถือเอกสาร
กับผู้ป่วยและผู้ประกันหนี้ทำการรักษาตัวอย่างด้านเชื้อโรค
ไม่ได้เป็นการรักษาที่ให้ไว้คุณภาพขาด; การรักษาดัง
กล่าวเป็นเพียงการอับดึงไม่ให้เชื้อไวรัสเพิ่มเข้าในร่างกายเท่านั้น;
สำนักงานประกำกันสังคมจะต้องตั้งรับตัวและให้ความรู้แก่
ผู้ประกันหนี้ในการป้องกันการติดเชื้อเชื้อไวรัส (เช่น การ
หลีกเลี่ยงพฤติกรรมเสี่ยง) ควบคู่ไปด้วย เพื่อป้องกันมิ
ให้ผู้เอาประกันหนี้ต้องใช้เวลาในการรักษาด้วยการติดเชื้อเชื้อไวรัส
ก็จะได้รับการศรุ่มครองค่ารักษาพยาบาล ซึ่งไม่
จะมีความน่าเชื่อถือในความเสี่ยง.

ມີເປົ້າໃຫຍ່ກົມາໄຫວ່າລົງ

พอกะปฏิรังษ์นักเรียนบุคคลและกรรมการดำเนินงานประจำใน
สังคมโรงเรียนมาติดต่อราชการที่อยู่บุคคลให้ดำเนินการศึกษา
นักเรียนเพื่อสอนให้เข้าใจ ด้วยศรีวงศ์ ที่ช่วยกระตุ้นให้หัวการ
ศึกษา ซึ่งไม่ใช้งานของทุนศิรันต์ที่มุ่งการเรียนที่สนใจและมุ่งการ
เรียน และเข้าใจมากที่สุดกว่าเดิมที่เป็นที่ประทับใจสักคนที่ช่วย
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Abstract Social Security Service at Siriraj Hospital for HIV-infected Patients.

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There were 226 patients with HIV infections who were in the social security system and registered in Siriraj Hospital in 2001. Medical records of 203 patients were reviewed. Sixty-five percent of the patients were males. An average age was 32.8 years. Eighty-six percent of the patients had indications for receiving antiretroviral agents. There were 1,562 out-patient visits. The total cost for out-patient treatment was 948,141 baht and the average cost per out-patient visit was 660 baht or 4,670 baht per patient per year. Forty-seven patients were hospitalized in 84 admissions. The total cost for all hospitalizations was 1,100,491 baht and the total duration was 577 days. An average cost per admission was 13,194 baht or 23,413 baht per patient per year. The total direct medical cost was 2,048,572 baht. If all aspects of cost (direct medical, direct non-medical, indirect and intangible costs) were taken into account, provision of appropriate anti-retroviral agents to the eligible patients could be cost-effective. The social security scheme should consider providing antiretroviral agents to registered HIV infected patients.

Key words: HIV infection, social security, anti-retroviral agents

Risk Index for Predicting Complications and Prognosis in Thai Patients with Neutropenia and Fever

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Abstract

Background : New strategies in the treatment of febrile neutropenic patients have been proposed during the past decade. It is more and more widely accepted that febrile neutropenic patients are a heterogeneous population and they have varying risks for complications and death. However, most of the data have been collected from patients in Western countries. The purpose of the study was to identify types of infection and etiologic organisms in febrile neutropenic patients at Siriraj Hospital, Thailand, and also to develop a prediction model in order to identify patients who are expected to have a favorable outcome or a low-risk subset.

Method : The medical records of chemotherapy-induced neutropenic patients with fever hospitalized at Siriraj Hospital, Thailand, from January 1999 to December 2000 were analyzed. Data included patient characteristics, epidemiological data and the potential factors at the onset of fever for predicting patient outcome. A scoring system for predicting patients with favorable outcome was developed. The scoring system developed from this study was compared with a previously used scoring system.

Results : Of 220 patients with 267 febrile neutropenic episodes, 71.8 per cent had hematologic malignancies and 28.2 per cent had solid tumors. Bacteremia was found in 61 episodes (22.8%) and gram negative bacilli were the most common causative organism in bacteremia (88.6%). Overall mortality was 17.7 per cent. Multivariate analysis revealed that the factors predicting outcome were burden of illness, control of cancer, duration of neutropenia and dehydration. The scoring system developed from this set of data revealed that a score ≥ 16 identified patients with a favorable outcome with a specificity of 90.2 per cent, sensitivity of 76.6 per cent and positive predictive value of 85.4 per cent.

Conclusion : The causative organisms of bacterial infections in febrile neutropenic patients in Thailand are still gram negative bacteria. The locally developed risk index has a fair accuracy to identify patients with favorable outcome and may be used to identify patients suitable for less aggressive treatment strategies.

Key word : Agranulocytosis, Neutropenia, Febrile Neutropenia, Prognosis

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Chemotherapy-induced neutropenia in cancer and hematologic malignancy patients is almost always associated with infections⁽¹⁾. This complication usually limits effective chemotherapeutic treatment in those patients. Neutropenic patients presenting with fever are usually treated empirically with broad-spectrum antimicrobials⁽²⁾. Despite such prompt treatment, the complications and mortality rate in febrile neutropenic patients remain high. In a large series, the mortality reported ranged from 4 per cent to 30 per cent of episodes⁽³⁻⁵⁾. In 1997, the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) developed guidelines for the use of antimicrobial agents in neutropenic patients with unexplained fever⁽⁶⁾. The guideline recommendation is to treat all patients with a homogeneous regimen. In most of the febrile neutropenic episodes, the causative organisms were unknown and bacteremia was identified in only 22 per cent-32 per cent of the patients in most reports^(5,7-12). Over the past decade, there has been a clear shift in the infecting organisms from gram negative bacilli to gram positive cocci in the United States and Europe, and currently 60 per cent-70 per cent of the episodes of bacteremia are due to gram positive cocci^(13,14).

Recent investigations suggest that neutropenic patients with fever are a heterogeneous population, with subsets with varying risks regarding response to initial therapy, development of serious medi-

cal complications and mortality. An increased understanding of febrile neutropenia over the past decade has given clinicians the ability to identify patients with expected favorable outcome or, in other words, these patients with a lower risk of serious medical complications or mortality. Talcott et al have developed a clinical prediction classifying patients into four risk groups. They suggested that neutropenic patients with controlled cancer and no serious comorbidity who develop fever in an outpatient setting are at low risk, with an expected rate of serious medical complications of less than 5 per cent⁽¹⁵⁾. The ability to differentiate reliably between favorable and unfavorable outcome subsets was further developed by the Multinational Association for Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) by using a scoring system. The characteristics used in the MASCC scoring system were burden of illness, no hypotension, no chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, solid tumor or no previous fungal infection, no dehydration, outpatient status and age less than 60 years. A score ≥ 21 can identify low-risk patients with a positive predictive value of 91 per cent, specificity of 68 per cent and sensitivity of 71 per cent⁽¹⁶⁾.

Because of the changing situation and new knowledge concerning febrile neutropenia, it has now become possible to evaluate not only the nature of empirical antibiotic therapy for such patients, but

also the setting in which such therapy is delivered (17-19). Many studies have shown that patients in a low-risk subset can be treated safely with oral antibiotics and/or as an outpatient (20-26).

Although several studies in the United States and Europe have been performed to investigate the causative organism and outcome in febrile neutropenic patients, data in developing countries is lacking. Kanitsap et al reviewed 147 patients with hematologic malignancy with 64 episodes of febrile neutropenia at Siriraj Hospital, Thailand, from January to June 1998. They found that 22 per cent of the patients had bacteremia and the most common causative pathogens identified from blood were gram negative bacilli which accounted for 18 per cent of all episodes of febrile neutropenia (82% of all bacteremia). However, this study did not identify the potential factors for predicting favorable outcome (12).

The purpose of this study was to identify the types of infection and etiologic organisms in febrile neutropenic patients and also to develop a prediction model to identify patients who are expected to have favorable outcome or a low-risk subset.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Patients

Patients with febrile neutropenic episodes who were admitted to Siriraj Hospital, Thailand from January 1999 to December 2000 were included in the study. All of the patients' records which were coded for agranulocytosis (D70) using ICD-10 were reviewed. Patients who met the following eligibility criteria were included in the analysis: neutropenia (absolute neutrophil count < 500/ μ l) that was related to chemotherapy for hematologic malignancy or solid tumor, temperature greater than 38°C and age older than 12 years. Patients who received antibiotics for treating febrile neutropenic episodes concurrently with chemotherapeutic agents, and patients who died within 24 hours of admission were excluded.

Data extraction

The following data were extracted from the patients' medical records: patient's age, gender, underlying cancer, ECOG (Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group) performance status, number of courses and regimens of chemotherapeutic agents, use of growth factors and antibiotic prophylaxis, onset of fever at presentation, duration since the first day of the last episode of chemotherapy to hospitalization, duration of neutropenia, temperature, blood pressure, pulse rate

and respiratory rate. Laboratory data included total leukocyte count, absolute neutrophil count, absolute monocyte count, absolute phagocyte count, platelets, hemoglobin, blood urea nitrogen, creatinine, electrolytes, alanine transaminase, aspartate transaminase, alkaline phosphatase, total bilirubin, albumin, globulin and chest radiograph. Microbiological results and susceptibility profiles were also recorded for further analysis.

Operational definitions

Control of cancer

Control of cancer was assessed using the diagnostic information available in the medical records. For patients with leukemia, uncontrolled cancer was defined as the absence of documented complete remission. For patients with lymphoma or solid tumors, uncontrolled cancer was defined as either development of new lesions, ≥ 25 per cent enlargement of a measurable lesion while receiving chemotherapy or other evidence of treatment failure such as progressive cancer symptoms.

Burden of illness

Burden of illness was categorized into three groups. No or mild symptoms included patients who had no or minimal clinical signs and symptoms. Moderate symptoms included patients who had moderate clinical signs and symptoms with stable vital signs. Severe symptoms and moribund included patients who arrived bed-bound with clinical sepsis or who had unstable vital signs and needed close monitoring or intensive care.

Occurrence of fever

Occurrence of fever was categorized into outpatient or inpatient. The inpatient setting was defined as a patient who developed fever during his/her hospitalization or within 72 hours of discharge.

Co-morbidity

Co-morbidity was defined as significant blood loss requiring blood transfusion, respiratory failure needing intubation, altered mental state, presence of mucositis, presence of superficial fungal infection, diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea/vomiting, central intravenous catheter insertion, dehydration requiring intravenous treatment, suspected spinal cord compression, severe pre-existing cardiac diseases, chronic pulmonary diseases, diabetes, history of surgery within 6 weeks, previous febrile neutropenia, previous in-

sive fungal infection, previous antifungal treatment within the last 6 months, previous antibiotic treatment within 7 days and other serious diseases.

Dehydration

Dehydration was defined as volume depletion, i.e. combined sodium and water deficit. Signs of volume depletion included one or more of the followings: reduced skin turgor, dry oral mucous membrane, decreased axillary sweating, postural hypotension, hypotension.

Classification of fever

Fever was classified into fever of unknown origin (FUO), clinically documented infection and microbiologically documented infection.

Outcome measure

Patients' final outcomes were categorized using the parameters of survival, serious complications, modification of initial treatment, relapse of fever within 5 days of resolution, and the time taken for the fever to resolve after starting antibiotics.

Patients were classified into two groups according to the outcome:

- Favorable outcome: Patients whose fever resolved within 5 days of starting treatment and without serious medical complications.
- Unfavorable outcome: Death from any causes or development of serious medical complications or modification of initial antibiotic treatment or relapse of fever after resolution or fever not yet resolved after 5 days of treatment.

Statistical analysis

The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Student's *t*-test or Mann-Whitney U test, Chi-square test or Fisher's exact test were used for univariate analysis. A multiple logistic regression model was used for multivariate analysis. All statistical tests were two-sided and $p < 0.05$ was considered significant. Based on the logistic model, a prediction score was calculated for each patient. Patients with scores higher than the threshold constituted the group with favorable outcome. The sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value and negative predictive value

Table 1. Causative organisms isolated from the patients.

Organisms	All culture (N)	%	Blood cultures (N)	%
Gram negative bacteria	86	87.8	54	88.6
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	25	25.5	16	26.3
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	24	24.5	17	27.9
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp	13	13.2	10	16.4
Nonfermentative gram negative rod	6	6.1	3	4.9
<i>Enterobacter</i> spp	5	5.1	2	3.3
<i>Salmonella</i> group D	3	3.1	2	3.3
<i>Aeromonas</i> spp	2	2.1	1	1.6
<i>Proteus</i> spp	2	2.1	0	0
<i>Vibrio cholera</i> non O1 non O139	2	2.1	2	3.3
<i>Salmonella</i> group B	1	1.0	1	1.6
<i>Morganella morganii</i>	1	1.0	0	0
<i>Vibrio fischeri</i>	1	1.0	0	0
<i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i>	1	1.0	0	0
Gram positive bacteria	12	12.2	7	11.4
<i>Streptococcus</i> spp	4	4.0	3	4.9
<i>Enterococcus</i> spp	2	2.1	0	0
MSSA	2	2.1	2	3.3
MRSA	1	1.0	0	0
Coagulase Negative Staphylococcus	1	1.0	1	1.6
<i>Corynebacterium</i> spp	1	1.0	0	0
<i>Bacillus</i> spp	1	1.0	1	1.6
Total	98	100	61	100

of the system were computed. The data set in the present study was used to validate the scoring system developed by the Multinational Association for Supportive Care in Cancer Risk Index⁽¹⁶⁾. The sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value and negative predictive value of both sets were also compared.

RESULTS

The medical records of 433 episodes coded as D70 (agranulocytosis) during the 2 years from January 1999 to December 2000 were identified. 344 episodes met the criteria for febrile neutropenia. 77 episodes were excluded because of inadequate data (56 episodes), concurrent chemotherapy and antimicrobials (14 episodes) and death within 24 hours (7 episodes). Therefore, there were 267 episodes from 220 patients suitable for analysis.

Out of 267 episodes, 98.5 per cent of the cases were hospitalized on medical wards and 1.5 per cent were in the department of Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Orthopaedic Surgery and Radiation Therapy.

99 patients (45%) were male. Mean age was 44.7 years (SD = 18, range 13-91). 158 patients (71.8%) had hematologic malignancies, of which acute leukemia (101 patients or 45.9%) and lymphoma (42 patients or 19.1%) were the most common underlying diseases. The other 62 patients (28.2%) had solid tumors, 17 patients (7.7%) had breast cancer and 16 patients (7.3%) had sarcoma. 75 patients (28.1%) received growth factors and 6 patients (2.2%) received antibiotic prophylaxis.

The source of infection was unknown in 139 episodes (52.1%) and this group was classified as FUO, whereas, 38 episodes (14.2%) were classified as clinically documented infection, and 90 episodes (33.7%) which had culture proven data were classified as microbiologically documented infection. The common sites of infection of patients with clinically documented infection were lung (42.1%), perineum (21.1%) and soft tissue (18.4%). Most of the patients with microbiologically documented infection were classified as primary bacteremia (55.6%), whereas, urinary tract (17.8%) and soft tissue (10%) were the second and third most common source of infection.

There were 94 clinical specimens taken from patients with 267 episodes that had a positive culture (35.2%). 61 culture-positive specimens (22.8%) were taken from blood. There were 4 episodes that had 2 positive culture specimens. Two episodes had a positive culture with same organisms from pus and blood

specimens, one was *Escherichia coli* and another was *Vibrio cholerae*. *Streptococcus* spp was found in blood and urine from a patient. One patient with osteomyelitis had *Escherichia coli* in pus and group B streptococcus in blood. The other culture-positive specimens were urine (6%), pus (3.7%), sputum (1.5%), stool (0.4%), synovial fluid (0.4%) and urethral swab (0.4%).

98 organisms grew from the clinical specimens as shown in Table 1. Most of the causative organisms were gram negative bacteria that accounted for 86 specimens (87.8%). Gram positive bacteria were found in 12.2 per cent. 8 episodes had polymicrobial infections. Two sets of blood grew two organisms each (*Escherichia coli* & *Klebsiella* spp, and *Aeromonas* spp & *Klebsiella* spp). One patient grew *Streptococcus* spp from blood culture and *Escherichia coli* from pus simultaneously as mentioned previously. Three pus specimens grew dual organisms which were *Escherichia coli* & *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, nonfermentative gram negative rods & *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Klebsiella* spp & *Enterococcus* spp. One urethral swab grew *Corynebacterium* spp & *Enterobacter* spp and one urine culture grew *Escherichia coli* & *Enterobacter* spp.

The antimicrobial drugs given to the patients are shown in Table 2. The most commonly used antimicrobial regimen was ceftazidime plus amikacin which was prescribed in 204 episodes (76.4%).

Out of 267 episodes, 159 episodes met the criteria for high-risk or unfavorable outcome and 108 episodes met the criteria for low-risk or favorable

Table 2. Antibiotics given to the patients with febrile neutropenia.

Antibiotic	Frequency of prescription	%
Amikacin	242	44.4
Ceftazidime	239	43.9
Metronidazole	17	3.1
Cefepime	11	2.0
Clindamycin	8	1.5
Cloxacillin	7	1.3
Ceftriaxone	5	0.9
Ciprofloxacin	4	0.7
Imipenem	4	0.7
Netilmicin	3	0.6
Ampicillin	1	0.2
Gentamicin	1	0.2
Ceftriaxone	1	0.2
Amoxicillin/clavulanic	1	0.2
Méropenem	1	0.2

outcome. The mortality rate in 220 neutropenic patients with fever was 17.7 per cent. The cause of death was due to infection in 97.4 per cent. Antimicrobial treatments were modified in 92 episodes (34.5%) because of poor response to treatment. Common complications that occurred during treatment of 267 episodes were hypotension (10.1%), respiratory failure (10.1%), serious bleeding (4.9%) and alteration of consciousness (4.1%).

Of 228 episodes in which patients survived, 17 (7.5%) episodes relapsed, 117 (51.3%) episodes subsided within 5 days and 111 (48.7%) episodes still

had fever for more than 5 days. All of these episodes and the patients who died during treatment were classified as unfavorable outcome.

Potential factors for predicting outcome of febrile neutropenic patients were analyzed by univariate analysis. The factors shown in Table 3 were observed to be statistically significant. Multivariate analysis revealed only 4 independent factors that had a statistically significant association with poorer outcome in the patients as shown in Table 4. They were burden of illness, control of cancer, duration of neutropenia and dehydration.

Table 3. Univariate analysis of potential factors for predicting outcome in febrile neutropenic patients.

Factor	Outcome				P
	Unfavorable N = 159	%	Favorable N = 108	%	
Male	83	52.2	36	35.2	0.009
Mean age (SD), year	44.7 (16.7)		45.0 (19.2)		0.875
Underlying diseases					
Acute leukemia	95	59.7	41	38.0	<0.001
Chronic leukemia	5	3.1	3	2.8	
Myeloma	5	3.1	1	0.9	
Lymphoma	26	16.4	21	19.4	
Other hematologic malignancies	0	0	1	0.9	
Breast cancer	10	6.3	8	7.4	
Lung cancer	4	2.5	5	4.6	
Sarcoma	1	0.6	17	15.7	
Other solid tumors	13	8.2	11	10.2	
Uncontrolled cancer	143	89.9	48	44.9	<0.001
Number of courses of chemotherapy, median (interquartile range)	3 (3)		3 (3)		
Number of regimens of chemotherapy, median (interquartile range)	2 (1)		2 (1)		
Burden of illness					
No or mild	19	11.9	79	69.4	<0.001
Moderate	85	53.5	31	28.7	
Severe	55	34.6	2	1.9	
ECOG performance status					
0	0	0	1	0.9	<0.001
1	21	13.2	68	63	
2	52	32.7	29	26.9	
3	43	27.0	9	8.3	
4	43	27.0	1	0.9	
Use of growth factor	42	26.4	33	30.6	0.348
Use of antibiotic prophylaxis	6	3.8	0	0	0.084
Mean duration from first day of last course of chemotherapy (SD), days	11.5 (13.7)		7.6 (6.6)		0.017
Mean duration of neutropenia (SD), days	11 (6.3)		8.3 (4.6)		<0.001
Onset of fever at presentation					
≤ 24 h	87	54.7	36	33.3	0.006
> 24-48 h	32	20.1	28	25.9	
> 48-72 h	19	11.9	23	21.3	
> 72 h	21	13.2	21	19.4	
Occurrence of fever in hospital	82	51.6	34	31.5	0.002
Temperature ≥ 39°C	83	52.2	48	44.4	0.263
Systolic blood pressure < 90 mmHg	17	10.7	1	0.9	0.004

Table 3. Univariate analysis of potential factors for predicting outcome in febrile neutropenic patients (Continue).

Factors	Outcome				P
	Unfavorable N = 159	%	Favorable N = 106	%	
Diastolic blood pressure < 60 mmHg	21	13.2	1	0.9	0.001
Pulse rate ≥ 120/min	66	41.5	27	25	0.008
Respiratory rate > 20/min	58	36.5	21	19.4	0.004
Significant blood loss	58	36.5	9	8.3	< 0.002
Respiratory failure	10	6.3	0	0	0.007
Altered mental state	27	17.0	5	4.6	0.004
Mucositis	57	36.1	16	14.8	< 0.001
Superficial fungal infection	44	27.8	16	14.8	0.019
Diarrhea	46	28.9	12	11.1	0.001
Abdominal pain	28	17.6	7	6.5	0.014
Nausea/vomiting	29	18.2	13	12.0	0.232
Diarrhea	46	28.9	12	11.1	0.001
Central intravenous catheter insertion	8	5.0	1	0.9	0.088
Dehydration	66	41.5	7	6.5	0.001
Spinal cord compression	3	1.9	0	0	0.275
Underlying heart diseases	2	1.3	0	0	0.516
Underlying pulmonary diseases	1	0.6	3	2.8	0.307
Diabetes mellitus	10	6.3	6	5.6	1
Surgery within 6 weeks	7	4.4	5	4.6	1
Previous febrile neutropenia	73	47.7	25	23.6	< 0.001
Previous fungal infection	1	0.6	5	4.7	0.042
Antifungal treatment within 6 months	12	7.7	6	5.6	0.668
Antibiotic treatment within 7 days	36	22.6	13	12.0	0.042
Co-morbid diseases	7	4.4	3	2.8	0.774
Hemoglobin < 8 g/dl	79	49.7	42	38.9	0.107
Median leucocytes (interquartile range), / μ l	600 (630)		750 (662.5)		0.037
Median absolute neutrophils (interquartile range), / μ l	92 (227)		145 (272.5)		0.057
Median absolute monocytes (interquartile range), / μ l	34 (71)		65.5 (109.5)		< 0.001
Median absolute polymorphonuclear leukocytes (interquartile range), / μ l	202 (336)		289 (377.5)		0.005
Median platelets (interquartile range), / μ l	32,000 (58,000)		68,500 (111,500)		< 0.001
Blood Urea Nitrogen ≥ 20 mg/dl	43	27.2	13	12.5	0.007
Creatinine ≥ 2 mg/dl	6	3.8	6	5.7	0.351
Sodium ≥ 150 mmol/L	1	0.6	0	0	1
Potassium < 3.5 mmol/L	68	43.3	38	36.9	0.368
Bicarbonate < 24 mmol/L	77	49.0	57	55.3	0.386
Alanine Transaminase ≥ 74 U/L	28	21.9	5	7.6	0.021
Aspartate Transaminase ≥ 80 U/L	30	23.4	101	5.2	0.244
Alkaline phosphatase ≥ 117 U/L	56	43.8	20	31.7	0.151
Bilirubin ≥ 2 mg/dl	29	22.8	4	6.5	0.010
Albumin < 2.5 mg/dl	25	18.0	6	8.7	0.118
Globulin ≥ 3.5 mg/dl	45	33.8	15	23.8	0.209
Abnormal chest radiograph	115	72.8	90	84.9	0.030
Classification of fever					
Fever of unknown origin	68	42.8	71	65.7	0.001
Clinically documented infection	26	16.4	14	13.0	
Microbiologically documented infection	63	40.9	23	21.3	
Antimicrobial susceptibility	56	90.4	21	95.5	0.632

The MASCC scoring system was used to validate this set of data and examine the trade-offs between sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values (16). When using the threshold scores

of 21 and 22, the sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value and negative predictive value was 88.8 per cent and 78.5 per cent, 45.5 per cent and 75 per cent, 52.8 per cent and 68.3 per cent, and 85.5 per

Table 4. Factors associated with the outcomes from the multivariate analysis.

Factors	OR (95% CI)	P
Burden of illness : moderate	3.94 (1.78, 8.73)	0.001
Burden of illness : severe	18.59 (3.55, 97.49)	0.001
Controlled cancer	0.21 (0.09, 0.50)	<0.001
Duration of neutropenia for 1 additional day	1.17 (1.08, 1.26)	<0.001
No dehydration	0.17 (0.05, 0.35)	0.003

Table 5. The scoring system developed from local data.

Characteristic	Weight
Burden of illness : no or mild symptoms	8
Burden of illness : moderate symptoms	4
Controlled cancer	5
Expected time of neutropenia (day) : 0-3	8
Expected time of neutropenia (day) : 4-10	4
Expected time of neutropenia (day) : 11-15	2
No dehydration	5

cent and 83.6 per cent respectively. A scoring system was also developed from this data set in order to identify the low-risk subgroup. The factors that were statistically significant in the multivariate model were used to create the scoring system as shown in Table 5. Then the sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values of this scoring system were also examined as shown in Table 6.

The MASCC scoring system was compared to the scoring system developed from this data set as determined by the area under the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves as shown in Fig. 1. The scoring system locally developed had an area under the curve of 0.908 (95% CI 0.870-0.945), whereas, that of the MASCC scoring system was 0.803 (95% CI 0.748-0.858).

DISCUSSION

Although previous studies have demonstrated a shift of pathogenic bacteria in febrile neutropenic patients from gram negative organisms to gram positive organisms, the data observed in the present study did not show that shift. Gram negative bacteria remained the core organisms and were isolated in 87.8 per cent of microbiologically documented infections in febrile neutropenic patients in Siriraj Hos-

pital. Prior sets of data from Siriraj Hospital and the Royal Army Hospital, Thailand, also failed to demonstrate a shift from gram negative to gram positive bacteria (12,27). The increased use of central intravenous catheters may be responsible for the increase in gram positive pathogens found in Western countries. Only 9 patients in the present study had a central intravenous catheter in place.

In 267 episodes of febrile neutropenia, 61 episodes had a positive blood culture (22.8%) and 50 episodes of these were classified as primary bacteremia. This observation did not differ from the previous study in the same hospital which reported bacteremia in 22 per cent (12). Other studies have also reported bacteremia in febrile neutropenic patients ranging from 22 per cent to 32 per cent (5,7-12). Among gram negative bacteria, *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* were the most common causative organisms in both bacteremia and overall infections, followed by *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. Most organisms were susceptible to antimicrobials prescribed by the physicians. The most common antimicrobials prescribed for treating febrile neutropenic patients were ceftazidime and amikacin which were active to all isolates of gram negative bacteria. So, the extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) producing organism was not the main problem. Only 7 episodes (11.4%) found gram positive bacteria in blood cultures. *Streptococcus* spp and methicillin-sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA) were the most common causes of gram positive bacteremia in 3 and 2 episodes respectively. Thus, the most appropriate antimicrobials for treating febrile neutropenia should cover mainly gram negative bacteria including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Although there is controversy concerning the use of vancomycin for the initial treatment in febrile neutropenic patients, the data from the present study indicated that vancomycin is not necessary for initial

Table 6. Clinical prediction performance of the locally developed scoring system.

Score	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV*	NPV**
12	91.6	64.3	65.8	91.1
13	82.2	81.8	77.2	86.0
14	81.3	83.9	79.1	83.7
15	76.6	89.5	84.5	83.7
16	76.6	90.2	85.4	83.8
17	60.7	95.8	91.5	76.5

* PPV = Positive Predictive Value

** NPV = Negative Predictive Value

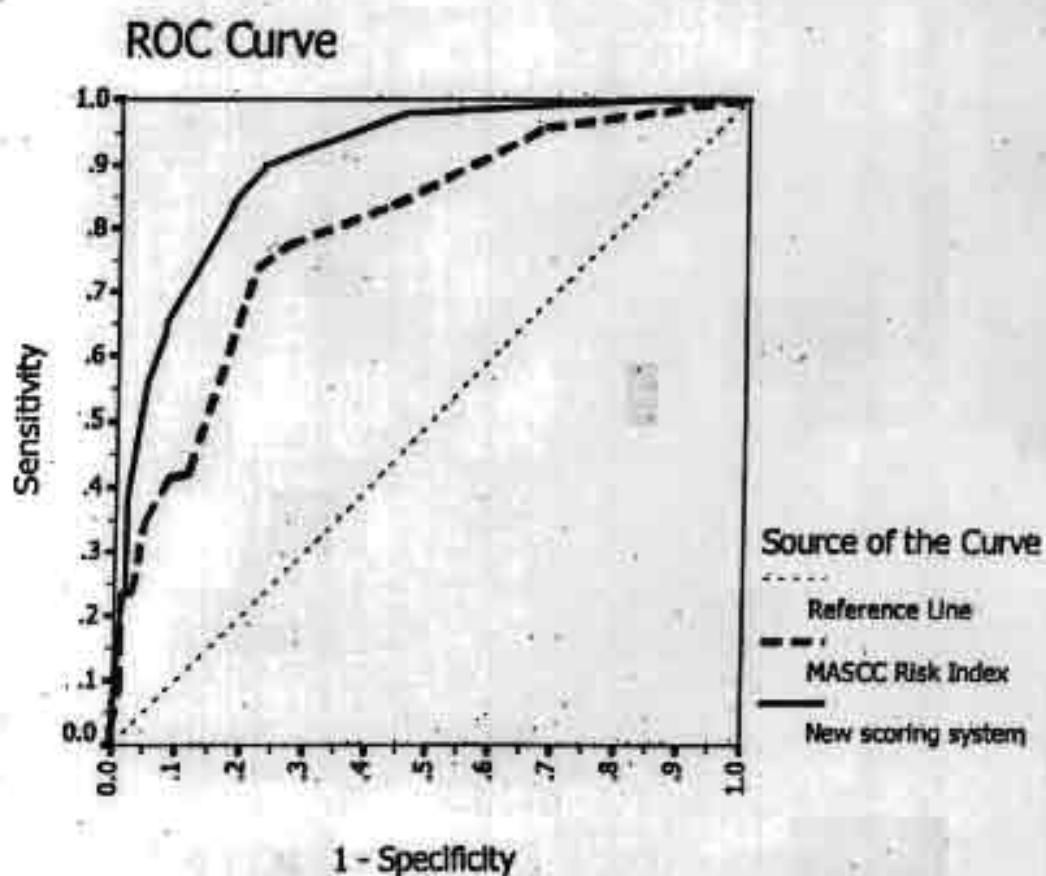


Fig. 1. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves for the MASCC Scoring System and the locally developed scoring system using local data.

empirical treatment but it could be considered in some specific patients with an increased risk for acquiring methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)(28).

Appropriate treatments may vary for febrile neutropenic patients who are at substantially different risk. There is general acceptance that febrile neutropenic patients comprise a heterogeneous popu-

lation. The identification of these low-risk patients has led to changes in treatment regimens, including changes in antimicrobial therapy, mode of antibiotic administration and treatment setting. Several clinical trials have demonstrated the safety and efficacy of oral antibiotics for low-risk patients (24-26). Talcott et al demonstrated the factors defining the high-risk subgroup include in-patient status, or outpatient status with serious concurrent co-morbidity or patients with uncontrolled cancer (15). By using the scoring system, Klastersky et al demonstrated that weighting of the potential risk factors led to more precise identification of a low-risk subgroup. With a threshold score of 21, the prediction had sensitivity of 71 per cent, specificity of 68 per cent, positive predictive value of 99 per cent and negative predictive value of 36 per cent for patients with favorable outcome or low-risk subgroups (16).

Despite many studies which have demonstrated the ability of the scoring system to differentiate low-risk subgroup patients and have led to the development of new guidelines (29), data from developing countries with different epidemiological and socioeconomic backgrounds is lacking. The MASCC scoring system was used to validate this data set and the authors found that for a threshold score of 21, the sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value and negative predictive value was 88.8 per cent, 45.5 per cent, 52.8 per cent and 85.5 per cent respectively. When using a threshold score of 22, the specificity became higher (75%). Therefore, if the MASCC scoring system is to be used in Thai patients, the threshold score of 22 is more accurate in predicting the outcome.

A scoring system to identify the low-risk subgroup was developed using the data from Thai patients. It was found that a threshold score of 16 had a low misclassification rate with a sensitivity of 76.6 per cent, specificity of 90.2 per cent, positive predic-

tive value of 85.5 per cent and negative predictive value of 83.8 per cent in predicting a favorable outcome. Looking at the ROC curve, the locally developed scoring system had an area under the curve greater than that of the MASCC scoring system and, is therefore, more accurate in predicting patient outcome.

Among the factors expected to be predictors for unfavorable outcome (underlying diseases, duration of neutropenia and co-morbidity), only the duration of neutropenia was included in the model. Underlying disease was shown to be statistically significant in the univariate analysis but was not in the multivariate model. This was due to the fact that patients with hematologic malignancies usually had a longer duration of neutropenia because of poor bone marrow recovery. Thus, duration of neutropenia was an independent risk factor for predicting patient outcome. Co-morbidity did not show a significant difference between the groups because of the small number of patients.

In conclusion, this retrospective study revealed that the epidemiology of causative organism in febrile neutropenic patients is different from Western countries. A locally developed scoring system with a threshold score of 16 can identify a low-risk subgroup accurately. However, the locally developed scoring system needs to be validated on another set of data collected during different periods and the data prospectively collected before it can be adopted for use in clinical practice.

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พัฒนาปัจจัยเสี่ยงของการเกิดภาวะแทรกซ้อนและการพยากรณ์โรคในผู้ป่วยไทยที่มีเนื้องอกขาวในเดือนต่อเดือน

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บทนำ : แนวทางการรักษาผู้ป่วยที่มีเนื้องอกขาวในเดือนต่อเดือนที่ใช้ตั้งแต่เดือนกันยายนเป็นปัจจุบัน การศึกษาในทางประโภคพบริเวณน้ำดีวิทยาของไทยก่อให้เกิดปัจจัยทางเชื้อแบคทีเรียก่อภัยเป็นเชื้อแบคทีเรียก่อภัย แต่สูงป่วยสูงที่สุดและมากที่สุดที่ก่อภัยและมีการพยากรณ์โรคที่หลากหลายยังมีการศึกษาเป็นจังหวัดที่ห่วงโซ่ในการทำงานและการพยากรณ์โรค แต่ยังไม่เคยมีการศึกษาที่เป็นจังหวัดในคนไทย

วัตถุประสงค์ : เพื่อศึกษาขนาดวิทยาของเชื้อแบคทีเรียก่อโรคและปัจจัยที่ช่วยท่านางการพยากรณ์โรคในผู้ป่วยไทยที่มีเนื้องอกขาวในเดือนต่อเดือน

วิธีการศึกษา : เก็บตัวอย่างที่เก็บตัวอย่างจากน้ำดีของผู้ป่วยที่รับให้รักษาในโรงพยาบาลศิริราชที่ได้รับการรักษาต่อเนื่อง

ผลการศึกษา : ผู้ป่วย 220 คนมีปัจจัยเดือนต่อเดือนที่บ่งบอกและมีใช้จำนวน 267 ครั้ง โดยเป็นผู้ป่วยไข้คอมบะริส์ที่เดือนต่อเดือน 71.8 และผู้ป่วยไข้คอมบะริส์ที่เดือนต่อเดือน 28.2, มีการศึกษาในระยะเดือนต่อเดือน 22.8 โดยพบบีบีแบคทีเรียก่อภัยเดือนต่อเดือน 88.6, อัตราต่อเดือนต่อเดือน 17.7 และปัจจัยที่มีผลต่อการพยากรณ์โรคได้แก่ ความรุนแรงของการรักษา, การพยากรณ์ทางการรักษาที่ว่องไว, รวมถึงการนับเม็ดเลือดขาวที่และภาวะชาตื้น ระบบคะแนนที่สร้างขึ้นโดยใช้เกณฑ์และค่าที่ 16 คะแนนสำหรับตัวบีบีแบคทีเรียก่อภัยที่มีการพยากรณ์ไข้เดือนต่อเดือน โดยมีความจำเป็นต่อเดือนต่อเดือน 90.2, ความไวต่อเดือนต่อเดือน 78.6 และคุณภาพการพยากรณ์ (positive predictive value) ร้อยละ 85.4

สรุป : สำหรับประเทศไทยในผู้ป่วยไทยที่มีเนื้องอกขาวในเดือนต่อเดือน ผู้คนมีปัจจัยเดือนต่อเดือนที่เดือนต่อเดือน 88.6, อัตราต่อเดือนต่อเดือน 17.7 และปัจจัยที่มีผลต่อการพยากรณ์โรคได้แก่ ความรุนแรงของการรักษา, การพยากรณ์ทางการรักษาที่ว่องไว, รวมถึงการนับเม็ดเลือดขาวที่และภาวะชาตื้น ระบบคะแนนที่สร้างขึ้นโดยใช้เกณฑ์และค่าที่ 16 คะแนนสำหรับตัวบีบีแบคทีเรียก่อภัยที่มีการพยากรณ์ไข้เดือนต่อเดือน โดยมีความจำเป็นต่อเดือนต่อเดือน 90.2, ความไวต่อเดือนต่อเดือน 78.6 และคุณภาพการพยากรณ์ (positive predictive value) ร้อยละ 85.4

คำสำคัญ : ระบบการนับเม็ดเลือดขาว, เนื้องอกขาวในเดือนต่อเดือน, ไข้, พยากรณ์โรค

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Breastfeeding and Its Relation to Child Nutrition in Rural Chiang Mai, Thailand

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Abstract

A cross-sectional study was conducted to evaluate current breastfeeding practices among a population in a remote rural area of Chiang Mai, Thailand. Three hundred and ninety-five women with children aged less than 36 months were studied. Mothers were interviewed and anthropometric status of children was assessed. Seventy per cent of them were from a hill-tribe ethnic group and 30 per cent were Thai. The results showed that breastfeeding was highly prevalent amongst the hill-tribe population especially in uneducated multiparous women. Only 53.6 per cent of children were exclusively breastfed in the first six months of life. Breastfeeding tended to be continued until or beyond the age of one year but complemented with other foods. For children aged up to 6 months, the prevalence of undernutrition, wasting and stunting in the exclusively breastfed group was 0.0 per cent, 1.9 per cent and 7.7 per cent, respectively, compared to 2.1 per cent, 4.3 per cent and 8.5 per cent, respectively in partial/non-breastfed children ($p > 0.05$). For children aged between 7-12 months, the undernutrition, wasting, and stunting in the exclusively breastfed group was 23.1 per cent, 15.4 per cent and 7.7 per cent, respectively, compared to 13.4 per cent, 7.3 per cent and 9.8 per cent, respectively in partial/non-breastfed children ($p > 0.05$). For children older than one year ($n = 201$), 12 were exclusively breastfed and six of them were undernourished. In the partial/non-breastfed group, 70 of 189 were undernourished ($p > 0.05$). The results showed that children were more likely to be malnourished as age increases in either exclusively breastfed or partial/non-breastfed group. This may not be a breastfeeding issue but the weaning practices. Appropriate food supplementation and correct weaning practices are essential in order to maintain nutritional status in children beyond six months of age.

Key word : Breastfeeding, Child Nutrition, Ethnic Groups

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Breast milk benefits children as it reduces morbidity and mortality from many illnesses, and is considered the ideal food for newborn infants⁽¹⁾. Exclusive breastfeeding is adequate for infant growth during the first 6 months of age⁽²⁾. In the developing world, breastfeeding promotion through the health care system has been a national priority in many countries. Practical strategies, which have been used to promote the success of breastfeeding, include effective prenatal education, a screening breast exam, the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and instruction on correct breastfeeding technique⁽³⁾.

Several factors, which influence the incidence and duration of breastfeeding, have been studied, such as maternal education, prenatal care in the first trimester, previous experience of breastfeeding and maternal support⁽⁴⁾. The mothers' perception of inadequate output of milk is a frequent reason for stopping breastfeeding in the first four months of life⁽⁵⁾. However, prolonged breastfeeding beyond the first year of life may be associated with malnutrition^(6,7). The duration of breastfeeding differs widely between populations, as do the consequences of these differences for the nutritional status of the child. This study aimed to evaluate current breastfeeding practices in remote rural communities of Chiang Mai province, Thailand and describe their association with child nutritional status.

METHOD

A cross-sectional study was conducted in 32 villages in a remote rural area of Chiang Mai, Thailand in 1999 with the permission of the Chiang Mai Public Health Office. All women with children aged less than 36 months were requested to participate. Mothers were interviewed for information about breastfeeding practices, weaning time, types of supplementary foods, level of education, types of houses and perception on family economic status. The children's weight was measured using a Salter scale in kilograms. Length was measured with a Starter measure mat in centimeters (Child Growth Foundation, UK). Z-scores for weight for height and height for age were calculated, and compared with a WHO reference population⁽⁸⁾. Undernutrition, wasting and stunting were determined as a Z score less than -2 standard deviations for weight for age, weight for height and height for age, respectively⁽⁹⁾. Correlation coefficients were estimated to describe relationship between age and Z-score for weight for height. The Chi-square test was used for comparisons of proportions of under-

nutrition, wasting and stunting between the groups. The statistical significance was considered at a p-value of < 0.05.

RESULTS

Three hundred and ninety-five women and their children were studied. This number was approximately 80 per cent of women with children less than 36 months of age in the study area. Maternal characteristics relating to breastfeeding are shown in Table 1. There was a higher prevalence of breastfeeding amongst hill-tribes than amongst Thai women (89.2% compared to 57.3%). Breastfeeding was also associated with younger age, higher parity and less education. The pattern of breastfeeding is shown in Table 2. Ninety two per cent of children aged up to six months were breastfed, with 52 per cent exclusively breastfed. For older children other foods complemented breastfeeding. Sixty six per cent (134/201) of children aged more than one year were still breastfed and 12 (5.9%) were exclusively breastfed (Table 2). Rice was the most frequently introduced in the first six months (61.9%), followed by egg (47.6%) and banana (28.5%). Meat, fish and vegetables were used as supplements in children older than six months (20.5%, 14.1% and 10.2%, respectively). Beans were supplemented late in the second year of life, although this was infrequent. The mean age (SD) for introduction of supplementary food was 3.8 (3.82) months. The mean age (SD) for weaning was 10.9 (4.68) months. The prevalence of undernutrition, wasting, and stunting is shown in Table 3. For children aged up to 6 months, the prevalence of undernutrition, wasting and stunting in the exclusively breastfed group was 0.0 per cent, 1.9 per cent and 7.7 per cent, respectively, compared to 2.1 per cent, 4.3 per cent and 8.5 per cent, respectively in partial/non-breastfed children. These differences were not significant. For children aged between 7-12 months, the undernutrition, wasting, and stunting in the exclusively breastfed group was 23.1 per cent, 15.4 per cent and 7.7 per cent, respectively, compared to 13.4 per cent, 7.3 per cent and 9.8 per cent, respectively in partial/non-breastfed children. These differences were not significant. For children older than one year, the number of exclusively breastfed was small (12/201). The undernutrition, wasting, and stunting in these children was 50 per cent, 0.0 per cent and 41.6 per cent, respectively, compared to 37 per cent, 14.8, and 37.5 per cent, respectively in partial/non-breastfed children. These differences were not significant.

Table 1. Maternal characteristics and prevalence of breastfeeding

Maternal characteristics	Number*	Still breastfeeding		
		No.	%	P-value
Age (years)				
15-20	83	78	91.8	
21-30	220	171	77.7	
≥ 31	87	64	73.6	<0.01
Race				
Hill-tribe	278	248	89.2	
Thai	117	67	57.3	<0.001
Parity				
1 to 2	279	213	76.3	
3 or more	116	102	87.9	<0.01
Education				
None	217	192	88.5	
Primary school	176	121	68.8	
Economic status				
Poor	139	114	82.0	
Fair	244	191	78.3	>0.05

* Group totals differ due to missing data for some characteristics.

Table 2. Breastfeeding pattern by age.

Age (months)	Number	Breastfeeding					
		Exclusive No.	%	BF with SF*	%	Not BF No.	%
0-6	99	52	52.5	40	40.4	7	7.1
7-12	95	13	13.7	76	80.0	6	6.3
13-18	97	10	10.3	64	66.0	23	23.7
19 or more	104	2	1.9	58	55.8	44	42.3
Total	395	77	19.5	238	60.2	80	20.3

* Breastfeeding with infant formula or supplementary food

Table 3. Undernutrition, wasting and stunting in exclusively breastfed and partial/non-breastfed children in relation to age.

Age Breastfeeding	No.	Prevalence of					
		Undernutrition ^a No.	%	Wasting ^b No.	%	Stunting ^c No.	%
0-6 months							
Exclusive	52	0	0.0	1	1.9	4	7.7
Partial/No	47	1	2.1	2	4.3	4	8.5
7-12 months							
Exclusive	13	3	23.1	2	15.4	1	7.7
Partial/No	82	11	13.4	6	7.3	8	9.8
> 12 months							
Exclusive	12	6	50.0	0	0.0	5	41.6
Partial/No	189	70	37.0	28	14.8	71	37.5

* Z-score for weight for age < -2, ^b Z-score for weight for height < -2, ^c Z-score for height for age < -2.

All categories were not significantly different between exclusively breastfed and partial/non-breastfed for all age groups (p-value > 0.05)

DISCUSSION

This study showed that breastfeeding was highly prevalent amongst the hill-tribe population especially in uneducated multiparous women. The high prevalence of breastfeeding could relate to a previous positive experience with breastfeeding, as well as strong support from the family. These women also commonly introduce infant formula and supplementary foods during the early months after delivery. Only 53.6 per cent of children were exclusively breastfed in the first six months of life. Breastfeeding tended to be continue until or beyond the age of one year. A small number of breastfed children older than one year had never received other foods. This may occur due to ignorance of the mothers, as well as limitation of available food in poor families. The authors are uncertain about maternal perceptions on breastfeeding and food supplementation. Breastfeeding mothers may pay less attention to food supplementation, as there is no immediate need to secure a

variety of supplemented foods. There was no significant differences in the prevalence of undernutrition, wasting and stunting between exclusively breastfed children and partial or non-breastfed children. The results showed that children were more likely to be malnourished as age increases in either the exclusively breastfed or partial/non-breastfed group. This may not be a breastfeeding issue but weaning practices. Appropriate food supplementation and correct weaning practices are essential in order to maintain nutritional status of children beyond six months of age.

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ภาวะไม่ปกติของการในเด็ก และการเดี่ยวของเด็กด้วยน้ำนมมารดา ในเขตพื้นที่ชนบทของจังหวัดเชียงใหม่

ก่อน พัฒนาพิช พ.

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គារតាមការ : ការងារໄປពេលវេលា, ការត្រួតពេកការងារ, ការងារក្នុងការងារ

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• រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ និងខេត្តពោធិ៍ នៅថ្ងៃទី២០ ខែមីនា ឆ្នាំ២០២២

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Implementation of clinical practice guidelines for upper respiratory infection in Thailand

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KEYWORDS

Clinical practice guidelines; implementation; Upper respiratory infection

Summary **Objective:** To determine the effectiveness of implementing clinical practice guidelines (CPG) on antibiotic prescribing for adults with upper respiratory infection (URI) in terms of the changes in diagnosis and prevalence and patterns of antibiotic prescribing.

Methods: The CPG on antibiotic treatments for adults with URI published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* 2001; 134: 479–52 were considered to be of high quality and applicable to Thai patients. A one-page clinical practice protocol in Thai was prepared from these guidelines. The dissemination strategy provided CPG and clinical practice protocol to 12 general practitioners in Siriraj Social Security Program in Bangkok during interactive educational meetings in April 2001. The information on 837 URI episodes from January to March (pre-CPG phase) and 774 URI episodes during May to July (post-CPG phase) were extracted from the patients' medical records. Telephone follow up for patients without antibiotics in the post-CPG phase was also attempted.

Results: Changes in the post-CPG period included (1) The diagnosis of URI was used less frequently whereas the diagnosis of common cold, pharyngitis and acute bronchitis were used more frequently ($p < 0.05$). (2) Antibiotic use fell from 74.0% to 44.1% ($p < 0.001$). (3) Fewer prescriptions for amoxicillin, roxithromycin, co-trimoxazole and doxycycline, and more for penicillin V ($p < 0.05$). Patients ($n = 97$) not given antibiotics reported recovery in 83.5% and improvement in 16.5%.

Conclusion: A locally prepared clinical practice protocol based on US CPG for appropriate antibiotic use for URI combined with interactive educational meetings is effective in promoting appropriate diagnosis and antibiotic therapy in an ambulatory setting in a tertiary care hospital in Thailand.

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Introduction

The prevalence of penicillin-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in Thailand increased to 42% in 2000.^{1,2} Overuse of antibiotics for minor respiratory infections is found to be an important factor for the

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selection of resistant strains.³⁻⁶ Antibiotics are prescribed to 51–76% of adults with upper respiratory infections (URI) in the United States.^{7,8} We found that antibiotics were prescribed to 80% of adults with URI who visited the Social Security Program at Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand in the year 2000. It seems reasonable that reducing the use of unnecessary antibiotics could decrease or at least halt the development of drug-resistant streptococci.⁹⁻¹¹ Effective interventions are needed in view of the high rates of antibiotic resistance and use in Thailand and other countries.

The objective of this study was to determine the effectiveness of a simple one-page clinical practice protocol and US CPG for appropriate antibiotic use for URI combined with interactive educational meetings with general practitioners to improve the diagnosis and the use of antibiotics for adults with URI.

Methods

The study was approved and endorsed by Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University. It was conducted at Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok, a 2000-bed tertiary care university hospital. There are about 80,000 adult outpatient visits annually to the Social Security Program in the hospital clinic. URI accounts for about 5% of these visits. The key recommendations presented in position papers on appropriate antibiotic use for URI in adults (Ann Intern Med 2001; 134: 479-529) were used to prepare a one-page clinical practice protocol in the Thai language (Figure 1).

The first part of the protocol emphasizes an importance for the diagnosis of specific clinical syndromes, i.e., common cold, rhinitis, non-specific upper respiratory tract infections, pharyngitis, tonsillitis, sinusitis, rhinosinusitis and acute bronchitis.

Clinical Practice Protocol on Antibiotic Use in Adults with Upper Respiratory Infections (URI)*

This protocol is intended for guiding general practitioners in making diagnoses and prescribing antibiotics for adults with upper respiratory infections in ambulatory care.

An adult who has no chronic or serious underlying diseases and presents to ambulatory care with symptoms and/or signs of upper respiratory infections should receive a more specific diagnosis of 'common cold' or 'rhinitis' or 'rhinopharyngitis' or 'pharyngitis' or 'tonsillitis' or 'sinusitis' or 'acute bronchitis' depending on his/her major symptoms and signs.

A diagnosis of 'URI' should be avoided.

The recommended treatments for each clinical syndrome of upper respiratory infections are:

Common cold/rhinitis/non-specific upper respiratory tract infections

- Symptomatic therapy such as an antipyretic should be given
- An antibiotic is not necessary since this syndrome is almost always caused by viruses.

Pharyngitis/tonsillitis

- Symptomatic therapy such as an antipyretic should be given
- An antibiotic should not be given routinely since most of the cases are caused by viruses. An antibiotic should be given to the patient who has at least three of the following criteria: fever, tonsillar exudate, tender anterior cervical lymphadenopathy, no cough. The antibiotic of first choice is penicillin V since group A streptococcus has not been resistant to penicillin. Erythromycin should replace penicillin V for the patient allergic to penicillin.

Sinusitis/rhinosinusitis

- The patient with mild symptoms should receive symptomatic therapy such as an antipyretic. An antibiotic may not be given
- The patient with severe symptoms or persistent symptoms longer than seven days should receive an antibiotic. The antibiotic of first choice is amoxicillin.

Acute bronchitis

- The patient should receive symptomatic treatment such as an antipyretic
- A β -agonist inhaler may relieve the symptoms
- An antibiotic is not necessary since this syndrome is usually caused by viruses.

* This protocol is modified from Principles of Appropriate Antibiotic Use for Treatment of Acute Respiratory Tract Infections in Adults: Background, Specific Aims, and Methods. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 2001;134:479-529

Figure 1 Translation into English from Thai of the Clinical Practice Protocol.

The second part focuses on the antibiotics recommended for each clinical syndrome. The clinical practice protocol and US CPG were presented to 12 general practitioners who provided care for the Social Security Program. Two sessions of interactive educational meeting were organized in April 2001. Each session lasted 1.5 hours.

One of the investigators (VT) presented the current situation on antibiotic use for adults with URI at the ambulatory care service of Social Security Program and the necessity for change. The rationale for a separate diagnosis of each clinical URI syndrome and the principles for prescribing antibiotics for each clinical syndrome were then explained. Evidence for each recommendation in the CPG was clarified. The physicians agreed to adhere to the clinical practice protocol.

Sample size was based on the following considerations. The antibiotic prescription rate for adults with URI at the ambulatory care service of Social Security Program at Siriraj Hospital in 2000 was approximately 80%. It was hypothesized that antibiotic prescriptions could be reduced to 50% or less. For a 5% type I error and 20% type II error, 50 episodes of URI for each general practitioner were required. Therefore at least 600 episodes of URI for each period were needed. The medical records of the patients who attended ambulatory care service from January to March 2001 (pre-CPG period) and May to July 2001 (post-CPG period) were retrieved. The inclusion criteria were that:

- The adult patients had no underlying diseases and that they received care from the participating general practitioners.
- Information was extracted on diagnoses and antibiotic prescriptions.
- The clinical outcomes for patients who received no antibiotics during the post-CPG period were assessed by telephone interviews at seven days following their visits.
- The data were analyzed by descriptive statistics. All comparisons were performed by a chi-square

test using Epi-Info version 6. All statistical tests were 2-sided and considered significant at $p < 0.05$.

Results

The URI clinical syndromes identified by general practitioners during the two study periods are shown in Table 1. The diagnosis of URI was significantly reduced and pharyngitis, the common cold and bronchitis were diagnosed more often during the post-CPG period compared to the pre-CPG period. Time series analysis of clinical syndromes of URI revealed no significant difference among the months during each period. The antibiotic prescription rates were 74.0% in the pre-CPG period and 44.1% in the post-CPG period ($p < 0.001$, RR 0.6 with 95% CI 0.55–0.65).

The antibiotics prescribed during each period are shown in Table 2. There was a significant reduction in use of amoxicillin, co-trimoxazole, roxithromycin and doxycycline; and penicillin V was prescribed significantly more often during the post-CPG period compared with the pre-CPG period. Time series analysis of antibiotic prescription rates revealed no significant difference among the months during each period. Co-trimoxazole is not recommended in the URI antibiotic guidelines, nevertheless it accounted for 22.3% of the patients' prescriptions during the pre-CPG period and 17.1% during the post-CPG period. The correlation between the clinical syndromes of URI and antibiotic prescribing is shown in Table 3. The antibiotic prescription rate for the common cold was significantly less than for all other clinical syndromes of URI for both periods. The antibiotic prescription rates for URI, bronchitis and the common cold were significantly less during the post-CPG period when compared with those during the pre-CPG period.

Telephone interviews at seven days post-visit were attempted for 192 patients who received no antibiotics during the post-CPG period. Of these

Table 1 Clinical syndromes of URI made by general practitioners

Clinical syndrome	Pre-CPG period (837 episodes)	Post-CPG period (774 episodes)	P	Relative risk (95% confidence interval)
URI	720 (86.0%)	242 (31.1%)	<0.001	0.36 (0.33–0.40)
Pharyngitis	49 (5.9%)	192 (24.8%)	<0.001	4.24 (3.2–5.7)
Bronchitis	36 (4.5%)	99 (12.8%)	<0.001	2.6 (1.8–3.7)
Tonsillitis	24 (2.9%)	17 (2.2%)	0.5	0.8 (0.4–1.4)
Common cold	5 (0.6%)	223 (28.8%)	<0.001	0.38 (0.30–1.16)
Sinusitis	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	1	1

Table 2. Antibiotic prescriptions made by general practitioners

Antibiotic	Pre-CPG period (837 episodes)	Post-CPG period (774 episodes)	<i>P</i>	Relative risk (95% confidence interval)
Aztreonam	1 (0.1%)	0 (0%)	>0.05	0.45 (0.27-0.55)
Clofazimine	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	>0.05	0.76 (0.62-0.93)
Cloxacillin	79 (9.4%)	22 (2.9%)	<0.001	0.34 (0.19-0.48)
Cloxacillin	21 (2.5%)	4 (0.5%)	<0.01	0.91 (0.87-0.95)
Penicillin V	16 (1.9%)	72 (9.3%)	<0.001	4.87 (2.86-8.29)
Cefuroxime	11 (1.3%)	0 (0%)	>0.05	0.76 (0.62-0.93)
Erythromycin	3 (0.4%)	2 (0.3%)	>0.05	0.76 (0.62-0.93)
Sulphamycin	6 (0.7%)	0 (0%)	>0.05	0.76 (0.62-0.93)
Co-amoxiclav	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	>0.05	0.76 (0.62-0.93)
Lincomycin	3 (0.4%)	1 (0.1%)	>0.05	0.76 (0.62-0.93)
Cephalexin	2 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	>0.05	0.76 (0.62-0.93)
Norfloxacin	2 (0.1%)	0 (0%)	>0.05	0.76 (0.62-0.93)

Aztreonam-clavulanate

Table 3. Prevalence of antibiotic prescribing in different clinical syndromes of URI

Clinical syndrome	Prevalence of antibiotic prescription	
	Pre-CPG phase (%)	Post-CPG phase (%)
URI	73	49
Pharyngitis	81	78
Tonsillitis	92	54
Bronchitis	74	40
Common cold	20	10

**p* < 0.01 when compared with other clinical syndromes.

97 (50.5%) were contacted after two attempts. Eighty-one (83.5%) of patients reported URI recovery, 16 (16.5%) reported that they had much improved.

Discussion

Clinical practice guidelines are tools for changing clinicians' behaviour. Success in promoting more appropriate healthcare behaviour in clinicians depends on the quality and relevance of clinical practice guidelines and the effectiveness of the strategy used to disseminate the information. It was found that the URI CPG published in the Annals of Internal Medicine to be of a high quality according to Shaneyfelt's criteria¹² and relevant to clinical practice in Thailand. They are however in English and are much too long and detailed to be useful

for busy practitioners. It was felt that only a few key points were needed to construct a practical protocol. Two main issues were focused upon: diagnosis and antibiotic prescribing for healthy adults with URI. It was elected to use interactive educational meetings for this study because it has been demonstrated to be an effective dissemination strategy.^{13,14}

The intervention used in the study was effective in changing clinicians' behaviour in the diagnosis and treatment of URI patients. Similar results have been obtained by different interventions.^{15,16} It is believed that a major factor contributing to the success of the current intervention was the substantial increase in the diagnosis of the common cold. Most of the clinic physicians agreed that antibiotics are not needed for this condition. A relatively small proportion of the patients were diagnosed with pharyngitis or tonsillitis, but antibiotic prescription rates for these two syndromes were still high (78-94%). This appears to be excessive since only up to 30% of the healthy adults with pharyngo-tonsillitis were found to have a positive throat culture for *Streptococcus pyogenes* (Thamlikitkul V, unpublished data). Use of rapid diagnostic methods for this bacterium should help reduce rate of antibiotic use, but may not reduce costs.

Co-trimoxazole is not recommended in the URI antibiotic guidelines. Nevertheless it accounted for 22.3% of the patients' prescriptions during the pre-CPG period and 17.1% during the post-CPG period. This is explained by the use of this drug by one senior clinician for almost all his patients with URI. He did not change his prescribing behaviour after receiving the intervention. When this practitioner's practice was excluded, the

antibiotic prescription rates were reduced from 66.8% to 34.2% for the pre-CPG period and post-CPG period respectively ($p < 0.001$). He has now retired.

Several issues continue to be of concern. First, although the antibiotic prescription rates fell from 74.0% to 44.1%, they still remained high in the post-CPG period. Ideally the antibiotic prescription rate for healthy adults with URI should not exceed 10%, since more than 90% are not caused by bacteria. Given the uncertainty of clinical findings in differentiating bacterial from viral infection in pharyngitis and tonsillitis, the antibiotic prescription rate would be expected to exceed 10% for these conditions, but a 44.1% use during the post-CPG period still appears to be excessive. Second, although the selection of antibiotics during the post-CPG period tended to be more appropriate, the choice made by the general practitioners needs to be improved. Third, this intervention was successful for at least a three-month period. In order to maintain the effectiveness of our intervention, all general practitioners have been reminded every six months since January 2002. The prevalence of antibiotic prescribing in 100 consecutive adult patients with URI in June 2002 was 41%. Finally, evidence-based clinical practice guidelines may need to be shown to be safe as well as effective under field conditions. It was found that virtually all patients who did not receive antibiotics during the post-CPG period had improved and none required readmission.

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The effect of quicklime (calcium oxide) as an inhibitor of *Burkholderia pseudomallei*

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Summary Measurement of in vitro activity of quicklime against *Burkholderia pseudomallei* revealed that quicklime at concentrations of 10% or more was bactericidal for up to 35 d. The effect of quicklime as an inhibitor of *B. pseudomallei* in soil from a rice field was studied in a laboratory setting. The soil, collected from a rice field in north-eastern Thailand, was mixed with *B. pseudomallei*. In experiment 1, quicklime was mixed with the soil in different amounts. In experiment 2, quicklime was spread over the soil surface. In experiment 3, quicklime solution was poured onto the soil. It was found that the pH of the soil in experiment 1 was much higher than that in experiments 2 and 3. Only quicklime mixed with soil at a concentration of 40% or more (weight/weight) was effective in inhibiting the growth of *B. pseudomallei* for up to six weeks.

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1. Introduction

Melioidosis is caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, which is a saprophytic bacterium in the soil. The disease is prevalent in South-East Asia and northern Australia (Chaowagul et al., 1989; Dance, 1991; Suputtamongkol et al., 1994). Epidemiological studies of melioidosis and *B. pseudomallei* in Thailand have shown that the disease is more prevalent in north-eastern Thailand; arabinose-negative *B. pseudomallei* was also found in soil collected from north-eastern Thailand (Trakulsomboon et al.,

2000; Vuddhakul et al., 1999). The organism can be readily isolated from environmental sources such as rice paddies, still or stagnant water and moist soils which predominate in the tropics, and it is believed that these habitats are the primary reservoirs (Ellison et al., 1969). Under laboratory conditions, it was found that *B. pseudomallei* survives best in an environment with a pH of 5.0–8.0, although it was also able to survive for a long period at pH 4.0 (Tong et al., 1996). Consequently, the survival of *B. pseudomallei* may be favoured by the relatively acidic environment of a rice paddy, which is usually pH 5.0–6.8 and is pH 4.4–7.7 in north-east Thailand (Kanai and Kondo, 1994). It was reported that *B. pseudomallei* was able to grow on glyphosate, a non-selective herbicide,

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as a sole phosphorous source (Peñaloza-Vazquez et al., 1995). *Burkholderia pseudomallei* can reduce nitrate in order to grow in an anaerobic environment, and the use of nitrate fertilizers might thus contribute to its proliferation in agricultural land (Kanal and Kondo, 1994).

Calcium oxide (quicklime) is a strong base and a disinfectant. The active ingredient that exerts killing activity against the pathogens is calcium hydroxide, which is produced when calcium oxide is mixed with water. A rapid reduction in total coliforms, *Salmonella* and *Shigella* counts was observed after the addition of quicklime and cement dust to sewage sludge (Amer, 1997; Plachy et al., 1996). One kilogram of quicklime spread over the sawdust bedding of dairy cows reduced bacterial counts (Hogan and Smith, 1997). Application of quicklime to pasture areas of a dairy herd which was paratuberculosis-positive was associated with a 72% reduction in the number of test-positive cattle (Johnson-Ifearulundu and Kaneene, 1999). In Thailand, quicklime has been used for a long time in farming systems. In addition, farmers usually apply quicklime to the soil in order to adjust soil conditions and eliminate some plant parasites. It was reported that quicklime could adjust the acid-base balance of the soil (Stevens and Laughlin, 1996). These applications reduced the need for chemical fertilizers, increased the quality of calcium in the soil and also increased grass production. An application of quicklime to soil was used for commercial carrot production to reduce the incidence of cavity spot disease in carrots (El-Tarabily et al., 1996).

The objectives of this study were to determine the in vitro activity of quicklime against arabinose-negative *B. pseudomallei* and the effect of quicklime on inhibiting arabinose-negative *B. pseudomallei* in soil under experimental conditions.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Bacterial strain

The arabinose-negative *B. pseudomallei* used in the study was isolated from the blood of a patient. The organism was grown on modified Ashdown's agar at 37°C for 48 h. Five colonies of *B. pseudomallei* were suspended in Tryptic Soy Broth (TSB) and incubated overnight on an orbital shaker at room temperature. The concentration of pathogens was measured with a spectrophotometer at a wavelength of 500 nm. The cultured broth was kept at 4°C, and suspended in sterile distilled water in order to produce a concentration of 5.5×10^5 cfu/ml. This broth was used for all experiments.

2.2. Quicklime (CaO)

Quicklime was purchased from a factory in Saraburi Province, Thailand and dissolved in water at 30% (weight/volume) in order to produce a solution with a pH of at least 12.0.

2.3. In vitro study of quicklime against *Burkholderia pseudomallei*

Quicklime was dissolved in sterile distilled water to make 200 ml suspension of varying concentrations (weight in grams/volume in ml) of 2.5, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50%. A bottle of 200 ml sterile distilled water served as the control. Each sample was inoculated with 1 ml of *B. pseudomallei* suspension in TSB with 5.5×10^5 cfu/ml on days 1, 7, 14, 21, and 35. The mixtures were kept at room temperature and 3 ml of suspension was withdrawn at 0 h, after 6 h of incubation and just prior to the next inoculation of *B. pseudomallei*, added to 10 ml of threonine basal salt solution containing 20 mg/l colistin (TBSS-C20) and incubated at 42°C for 48 h. The samples were then subcultured onto Ashdown's medium plates and incubated at 37°C for 3 d. *Burkholderia pseudomallei* was identified using standard biochemical tests. The pH of the suspension was also measured along with the subculture.

2.4. Study of the inhibitory effect of quicklime against *Burkholderia pseudomallei* growth in soil

2.4.1. Soil sample

Soil was collected from a rice field in Khon Kaen province, Thailand. The soil was then left to dry under sunlight for two weeks and a culture of the soil sample revealed no *B. pseudomallei*. Forty kilograms of soil was put in each container to a depth of 40 cm. The soil was inoculated with 2.5 l of *B. pseudomallei* solution at a concentration of 5.5×10^5 cfu/ml.

2.4.2. Study procedures

Three experiments were performed using the above described samples. In experiment 1, quicklime was mixed with the soil at 2.5, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 50% (weight/weight) concentrations. In experiment 2, quicklime was spread over the soil at amounts of 0.25, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 and 5.0 kg/m². In experiment 3, quicklime solution in distilled water at concentrations of 2.5, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50% (weight/volume) was poured onto the soil once daily. A control soil without quicklime was set up

for each experiment. All soil samples were soaked by spraying with water once daily and the containers of soil in all experiments were reinoculated with the same amount of *B. pseudomallei* every 7 to 10 d. Three grams of soil sample were collected at depths of 0, 5, 10, 20, and 30 cm on days 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 and every week for 6 weeks. The soil samples were taken to the laboratory for detection of *B. pseudomallei*. The pH of the soil sample was also recorded at the time of soil collection. A survival assay of *B. pseudomallei* was done by mixing the soil sample with distilled water for 2 min. Then 2 ml of the supernatant was transferred into 10 ml TBSS-C20. The mixture was incubated at 42 °C for 48 h, and subcultured onto modified Ashdown's agar. The plate was incubated at 37 °C for 48–72 h. *B. pseudomallei* was identified using standard biochemical procedures.

3. Results

3.1. In vitro activity of quicklime against *Burkholderia pseudomallei*

The pH values of the quicklime suspensions at different concentrations are shown in Table 1. All quicklime suspensions were alkaline. *Burkholderia pseudomallei* was consistently isolated from the control bottle without quicklime. The serial subcultures from the quicklime suspensions at all concentrations revealed no growth for up to 7 d. The quicklime suspension with a concentration of 5% was bactericidal for 21 d, whereas the quicklime

Table 2 The average pH of the soil mixed with different amounts of quicklime (experiment 1)

Concentration of quicklime in soil mixture (%) (weight/weight)	pH
2.5	7.47
5	7.64
10	7.68
15	7.71
20	8.06
25	8.54
30	8.56
35	8.75
40	9.45
45	9.86
50	10.59

suspension with a concentration of 10% or more exerted killing activity against *B. pseudomallei* for up to 35 d as shown in Table 1.

3.2. Inhibitory effect of quicklime against *Burkholderia pseudomallei* in soil

The pH of the soil without quicklime was 5 to 6 and *B. pseudomallei* was consistently detected. In contrast, the soil with quicklime had a pH higher than 6 as shown in Tables 2–4. The pH of the soil mixture with quicklime in experiment 1 was much higher than that in experiments 2 and 3, as also shown in Tables 2–4. In experiment 1, quicklime at 5% or more was effective in inhibiting the growth of *B. pseudomallei* for up to 7 d. However, only quicklime at 40% or more remained effective for up to 6 weeks. In experiments 2 and 3, *B. pseudomallei* could still be recovered from soil mixture at all concentrations of quicklime.

Table 1 The average pH and in vitro activity of quicklime suspensions against *Burkholderia pseudomallei*

Concentration of quicklime suspension (%) (weight/volume)	pH	Bactericidal activity at 6 h, 24 h, 7 d, 14 d, 21 d, and 35 d
0	7.8	No
2.5	8.81	Yes, up to day 7
5	9.77	Yes, up to day 21
10	12.14	Yes, up to day 35
15	12.41	Yes, up to day 35
20	12.45	Yes, up to day 35
25	12.59	Yes, up to day 35
30	12.61	Yes, up to day 35
35	12.66	Yes, up to day 35
40	12.72	Yes, up to day 35
45	12.72	Yes, up to day 35
50	12.73	Yes, up to day 35

Table 3 The average pH of soil treated by surface-spreading of different amounts of quicklime (experiment 2)

Amount of quicklime in soil mixture (kg/m ²)	pH
0.25	6.63
0.5	6.79
1	6.97
1.5	6.84
2	7.17
2.5	7.14
3	7.26
3.5	7.18
4	7.29
4.5	7.25
5	7.32

Table 4 The average pH of soil treated with quicklime solution (experiment 3)

Concentration of quicklime solution (%) (weight/volume)	pH
2.5	7.10
5	7.14
10	7.29
15	7.39
20	7.41
25	7.24
30	7.27
35	7.36
40	7.23
45	7.47
50	7.38

4. Discussion

Our study demonstrated that quicklime was also bactericidal against *B. pseudomallei* in addition to other pathogens such as coliforms, *Shigella* spp., *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Pythium coloratum* and *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* as has been observed in previous studies (Hogan and Smith, 1997; Johnson-Ifearulundu and Kaneene, 1999; Plachy et al., 1996). It was also shown that a quicklime suspension with a pH of less than 10 was not effective, whereas that with pH of 12 or greater was always bactericidal. Since quicklime has been used for adjusting soil pH and preventing infectious diseases in plants (El-Tarabily et al., 1996; Peñaloza-Vazquez et al., 1995; Stevens and Laughlin, 1996), it could therefore be a potential substance for reducing the burden of *B. pseudomallei* in the soil of rice fields. Although several studies have demonstrated that quicklime is a strong disinfectant against various pathogens when it is either mixed with or spread over contaminated materials such as sewage sludge (Amer, 1997; Hogan and Smith, 1997; Johnson-Ifearulundu and Kaneene, 1999; Plachy et al., 1996), the findings from our study revealed that only soil mixed with a large amount of quicklime could inhibit the growth of *B. pseudomallei*, whereas quicklime spread over the soil or quicklime solution poured over the soil surface was not effective. This could be explained by differences in the textures of the contaminated materials. Sewage sludge or animal sawdust bedding is semisolid, whereas soil is solid. It is unlikely that quicklime spread over or poured over the soil surface can inhibit the growth of the pathogens residing far beneath the surface. Another explanation for our observation is that only the soil mixed with

a large amount of quicklime will have a strongly alkaline pH of more than 8, since the killing activity of quicklime is dependent on an alkaline pH. Although rice stems in a rice field can grow at pH 4–10, studies on the effect of quicklime (or strong alkali) on the growth of rice and the ecological changes of the surrounding environment need to be explored prior to recommending quicklime as a measure for environmental control of *B. pseudomallei*, since quicklime has to be used in large amounts to decontaminate the soil from the presence of *B. pseudomallei*.

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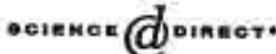
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Randomized Controlled Trial of *Tinospora crispa* for Additional Therapy in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

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A randomized double blind placebo controlled trial was conducted to determine the efficacy of *Tinospora crispa* as additional treatment in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who did not respond to oral hypoglycemic drugs and refused insulin injection. Twenty patients were allocated to receive *Tinospora crispa* powder in capsule form at a dosage of 1 gram thrice daily for 6 months. Twenty patients received a placebo. The main outcomes were changes in fasting plasma glucose, glycosylated hemoglobin and insulin levels. The baseline characteristics of the patients in both groups were not significantly different. There were no significant changes in fasting plasma glucose, glycosylated hemoglobin and insulin levels among the patients within the group and between groups. Two patients who received *Tinospora crispa* showed marked elevation of liver enzymes that returned to normal after discontinuing *Tinospora crispa*. Moreover, patients in the *Tinospora crispa* group had significant weight reduction and cholesterol elevation while taking *Tinospora crispa*. It is concluded that there is no evidence to support the use of *Tinospora crispa* 3 grams a day for additional therapy in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who did not respond to oral hypoglycemic drugs. The patients receiving *Tinospora crispa* may have an increased risk of hepatic dysfunction.

Keywords : *Tinospora crispa*, Diabetes mellitus

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Tinospora crispa is a medicinal plant used as a remedy for patients with diabetes mellitus in Malaysia^{1,2}. *Tinospora crispa* was found to have an anti-hyperglycemic effect in animals²⁻⁴. The hypoglycemic effect of *Tinospora crispa* is mediated by increasing insulin secretion from isolated rat and human islets of Langerhans⁵. *Tinospora crispa* is commonly used in diabetic patients in Thailand as well. Toxicological study of crude extract of *Tinospora crispa* revealed no obvious adverse effects⁶. However, animals of both sexes receiving the highest dose of *Tinospora crispa* extract had significantly higher alkaline phosphatase (ALP) levels, alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels and liver weights than those of the water control and tragacanth control groups. Histopathological study

of the liver indicated that male rats receiving the highest dose of the extract had significantly higher incidence of bile duct proliferation and focal liver cell hyperplasia than the two control groups. Blood chemistry studies revealed that both male and female rats receiving 1.28 g/kg. body weight of the extract had significantly higher cholesterol levels but significantly lower glucose levels than those of water control and tragacanth control groups. To our knowledge, there has been no controlled clinical trial of *Tinospora crispa* in patients with diabetes mellitus.

The objective of the study was to determine the efficacy of *Tinospora crispa* in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who did not respond to oral hypoglycemic drugs and refused insulin injection.

Patients and Method

The study was a randomized double blind placebo controlled trial conducted at Siriraj Hospital.

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The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital. The eligible study subjects were patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus older than 35 years who had received an adequate dose of oral hypoglycemic agents for at least 2 months and still had a glycosylated hemoglobin of greater than 8.5% and refused insulin injection. Patients with liver disease, heart disease, renal impairment or those who previously received traditional medicine were excluded. Eligible patients were randomly allocated to the study group or the control group. All subjects received oral hypoglycemic agents. The study group received additional *Tinospora crispa* powder in a capsule form at a dosage of 1 gram thrice daily for 6 months. *Tinospora crispa* powder was prepared by the Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health. The control group was given placebo in an identical capsule to be taken in the same fashion as the study drug. Compliance with the medication was made by a pill count at each visit. The patients were interviewed, examined and blood was taken for complete blood count, fasting plasma glucose, liver enzyme profile and renal function at entry and every month during the study. Blood for glycosylated hemoglobin and insulin determination was collected at enrollment and every 2 months during the study.

A sample size of 16 patients per group was estimated according to the assumption that baseline mean glycosylated hemoglobin was 10% with a standard deviation of 2% and post treatment mean glycosylated hemoglobin in *Tinospora crispa* group

was 8% or less with type I error 5% and type II error 20%. The data were analyzed by descriptive statistics, student t test, repeated measure ANOVA and chi-square test where appropriate. A p value of ≤ 0.05 indicates a statistically significant difference.

Results

There were 40 eligible patients. Twenty patients were in the study group and 20 in the control group. The baseline characteristics of the patients between the two groups were not significantly different as shown in Table 1. Six patients (3 in the *Tinospora crispa* group and 3 in the control group) were withdrawn from the study. One patient in the *Tinospora crispa* group had to receive insulin due to having active pulmonary tuberculosis. Two patients in the *Tinospora crispa* group had elevation of liver enzymes (SGOT and SGPT of greater than 200 u/L) more than 3 times the baseline values after receiving it for 2 and 5 months. Liver enzymes in the aforementioned 2 patients returned to normal (less than 30 u/L) after discontinuing *Tinospora crispa* for one month. One of them had evidence of hepatitis C infection. Two patients in the control group had to receive insulin due to having a subdural hematoma and being treated with prednisolone for Bell's palsy. One patient in the control group had to leave the study due to difficulty in returning to the clinic for follow up. Therefore, the authors were able to follow 34 patients until the end of the study. Fasting plasma glucose, glycosylated hemoglobin and insulin levels of the patients in both groups during 6 months were

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the patients in the study

Characteristic	<i>Tinospora crispa</i> Group(N=20)	Placebo Group(N=20)	P value
Gender, Male : Female	7 : 13	5 : 15	0.7
Mean age, year (SD)	58.4 (9.2)	59.1 (10.7)	0.8
Mean body weight, kg (SD)	60.8 (10.0)	58.9 (10.0)	0.5
Mean BMI, kg/m ² (SD)	27 (5.5)	26 (5.1)	0.7
Mean FPG, mg/dL (SD)	214.9 (45.5)	227.3 (73.4)	0.5
Mean glycosylated Hb, % (SD)	10.4 (1.6)	10.0 (1.2)	0.4
Mean insulin level, mU/ml. (SD)	17.9 (9.5)	17.8 (13)	0.9
Mean hematocrit, % (SD)	38.7 (3.3)	39.7 (2.7)	0.3
Mean WBC (SD)	7,971 (2,072)	7,368 (1,586)	0.3
Mean BUN, mg/dL. (SD)	15.1 (5.2)	15.6 (4.9)	0.8
Mean creatinine, mg/dL. (SD)	1.0 (0.3)	1.0 (0.2)	0.6
Mean cholesterol, mg/dL (SD)	233.6 (51.9)	218.2 (31.7)	0.7
Mean triglyceride, mg/dL (SD)	204.8 (127.2)	183.9 (75.3)	0.5
Mean SGOT, u/L (SD)	28.36 (12.6)	25.8 (9.8)	0.4
Mean SGPT, u/L (SD)	30.3 (15)	27.5 (17.3)	0.6
Mean bilirubin, mg/dL (SD)	1.33 (0.26)	1.58 (0.27)	0.4

not significantly different as shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. At the end of the study, all patients in the *Tinospora crispa* group had glycosylated hemoglobin values greater than 8.5% compared with 71% of the patients in the control group ($p = 0.04$). The body weight of the patients significantly decreased (approximately 2 kilograms) and the patients' cholesterol levels significantly increased (approximately 30 mg/dL) after taking *Tinospora crispa*. Changes in hematocrit, white blood cells, triglyceride, renal function and liver profile of the remaining patients were not observed.

Discussion

This study was unable to demonstrate the efficacy of *Tinospora crispa* for therapy in patients with type 2 diabetes who did not respond to oral

hypoglycemic drugs since there were no significant changes in fasting plasma glucose or glycosylated hemoglobin between those collected at baseline and during the study period in either group. Therefore, there is no evidence to support the use of *Tinospora crispa* in diabetic patients. However, there may be several explanations for being unable to detect any efficacy of *Tinospora crispa* in the present study. The authors recruited only type 2 diabetic patients who did not respond to an adequate dose of oral hypoglycemic agents. The insulin levels in the blood samples of the patients taking *Tinospora crispa* in the present study were not increasing. If the mechanism of action of *Tinospora crispa* is to stimulate insulin secretion, it is very unlikely that *Tinospora crispa* will be efficacious in these patients. A study that includes patients with mild diabetes who have never received oral hypoglycemic agents should be conducted in order to determine the efficacy of *Tinospora crispa*. Small sample size was not an explanation since 16 patients per group should be sufficient to detect the effect of at least 2% difference in glycosylated hemoglobin between the groups and there was no trend for any reduction in fasting plasma glucose or glycosylated hemoglobin in 17 patients who received *Tinospora crispa* for 6 months. In addition, all patients in the *Tinospora crispa* group still had glycosylated hemoglobin greater than 8.5% compared with 71% of those in the placebo group. An inadequate dosage or inadequate active ingredients of *Tinospora crispa* used in the study might explain the study results. A treatment duration of 6 months should be long enough to see the effect of treatment and this should not be the reason for negative results. Compliance with the medication was found to be satisfactory. Contamination was unlikely since this study included only patients who did not receive other traditional medicines. Co-intervention was considered insignificant since this study was double-blinded. *Tinospora crispa* is a well known appetite stimulant due to its bitterness and the patients in this group might consume more food after taking *Tinospora crispa* leading to uncontrolled diabetes and weight reduction. An explanation for the increase in cholesterol after taking *Tinospora crispa* is unclear. This observation was also found in animals¹⁹. Two patients (10%) who received *Tinospora crispa* at a dosage of 3 grams a day developed liver dysfunction and the study medication had to be discontinued. Although one patient had underlying chronic hepatitis, this

Fig. 1 Fasting plasma glucose (mg/dL)

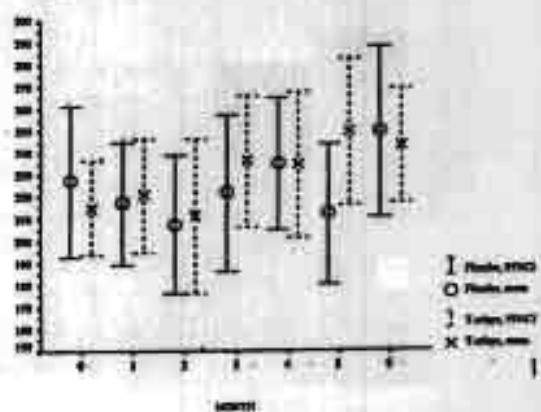


Fig. 1 Fasting plasma glucose in patients taking *Tinospora crispa* (X) and taking placebo (O)

Glycosylated Hemoglobin (%)

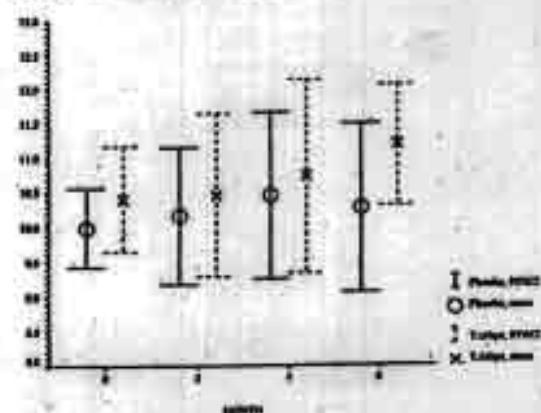


Fig. 2 Glycosylated hemoglobin in patients taking *Tinospora crispa* (X) and taking placebo (O)

observation suggests that hepatic dysfunction is an adverse effect of *Tinospora crispa*, and patients wanting to take *Tinospora crispa* and health care personnel who want to provide *Tinospora crispa* to the patients should be aware of this effect.

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1/ระดับกิจกรรมของนอร์ธเรตในการรักษาผู้ป่วยเบาหวาน

ກວດອນດາ ແກ້ວມະວຽດ, ສະນິທີທະ ອຄມພັນອົງກັກ, ພາຍີຕ ວຽກແຫຼວງ, ວິໄລຍະ ດຣມພິເສດຖາ

คณะครุภัชัยได้ศึกษาประวัติความของการรักษาโรคเบาหวานในญี่ปุ่นเพื่อสอนองค์การรักษาด้วยยาทั่วไปว่า
และไม่มีข้อมูลนักการรักษาด้วยอินซิโนร่านาน 40 คนโดยแบ่งผู้ป่วยออกเป็น 2 กลุ่มแบบสุ่ม ผู้ป่วยนาน 20
คนได้รับการรักษาเดินที่เกย์ได้รับวุฒิภูมิอย่างเดียว 1 กลุ่มนรบประทานร่วมตะ 3 ครั้งติดต่อภูมินาน 6 เดือน
ส่วนผู้ป่วยอีก 20 คนได้รับการรักษาเดินที่เกย์ได้รับวุฒิภูมิอย่างเดียว ลักษณะของน้ำหวานและความรุนแรง
ของโรคในผู้ป่วยทั้งสองกลุ่มไม่แตกต่างกัน และการศึกษาพบว่าระดับน้ำตาลใน⾎糖ที่ glycosylated
hemoglobin ภายนอกได้รับผลกระทบไม่ต่างจากเดิมที่ก่อนได้รับยา降糖药 และไม่ต้องกินยาทุกวันที่ได้รับยา降糖药 ผู้ป่วย
2 ราย (ร้อยละ 20) ที่ได้รับยา降糖药 มีผลทางด้านที่ดี ผู้ป่วยที่ได้รับยา降糖药 มีน้ำหนักตัวลดลงและมีระดับ
ไขมันใน⾀ลดลงในเดือนที่รับยา 2 รายที่รับยา降糖药 ไม่มีประเทศที่ดีต่อการรักษาโรคเบาหวานในญี่ปุ่น
ที่ไม่ต้องกินยาทั่วไป ด้วยยาทั่วไปและไม่มีข้อมูลนักการรักษาด้วยอินซิโนร์ยาทั่วไปมีผลดีทางเดียงต่อที่ดี

The Effect of *Thunbergia laurifolia Linn.* on Blood Alcohol Concentration after Consumption of Beer

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 Visanu Thamlikitkul‡

Abstract

Blood alcohol concentration was determined by alcohol breath test in nine adult healthy subjects after taking a bottle (630 ml) of Thai beer with an alcohol concentration of 5 per cent (vol/vol) and after taking 1.8 grams of *Thunbergia laurifolia Linn.* prior to consumption of Thai beer at the same concentration and amount. The concentration of alcohol in the blood after taking *Thunbergia laurifolia Linn.* was found to be statistically significantly lower (by 11.7 per cent) than that when was consumed alone.

(Intern Med J Thai 2004; 20:27-29)

Key words: *Thunbergia laurifolia Linn.*, blood, alcohol

Traffic accidents comprise one of the leading causes of death in Thailand and alcohol consumption has been found to be a major risk factor for road accidents¹⁻⁴. There have been extensive campaigns against drunk drivers and breath testing in drivers has been officially employed since 1996. A blood alcohol concentration of 50 mg% or more is considered illegal for driving vehicles. In the year 2000, there was a claim publicized in the newspapers

that taking *Thunbergia laurifolia Linn.* at the same time as alcohol could decrease the absorption of alcohol and therefore prevent testing positive on an alcohol breath test. *Thunbergia laurifolia Linn.* is a medicinal plant widely used in Thailand. The main chemical ingredients in this plant are flavonoids such as apigenin, cosmosin and delphinidin⁵. *Thunbergia laurifolia Linn.* has been found to produce the effect of anti-intoxication by organophosphate

insecticides in animals^{6,7}. To our knowledge, there is no information about the effect of *Thunbergia laurifolia Linn.* on alcohol absorption in human subjects.

The objective of the study was to determine the effect of *Thunbergia laurifolia Linn.* on blood alcohol concentration after consumption of beer in healthy adult volunteers.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

The subjects were nine healthy adult volunteers, seven men and two women, average age 34.3 years (SD 7

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years), average height 165.9 cm (SD 6.5 cm) and average body weight 63.3 Kg (SD 10.3 Kg). They drank a bottle (630 ml) of Thai beer with an alcohol concentration of 8 per cent (vol/vol) on an empty stomach within 30 minutes. Blood alcohol concentration was measured by alcohol breath test every 15 minutes after commencing beer consumption for 180 minutes or until alcohol was undetectable. Several weeks later the same subjects took 1.8 grams of *Thunbergia laurifolia* Linn. dried leaf powder capsules orally prior to drinking the same amount of beer. Blood alcohol concentration was measured by alcohol breath test every 15 minutes after commencing alcoholic beverage consumption for 180 minutes or until alcohol was undetectable. The subject was instructed to thoroughly rinse the oral cavity with water to remove any residual alcohol in the oral cavity before measuring. All alcohol breath tests were performed using an Intoxilyser (model Alco-sensor IV, Intoximeters Inc., MO). The blood alcohol concentrations of the subjects in both experiments were analyzed by descriptive statistics and multiple regression analysis. A *p* value of 0.05 or less was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

The blood alcohol concentration-time curves for both experiments are shown in Figure 1. The mean peak alcohol concentration in the blood of the subjects after beer consumption was 61.6 mg% (SD 10.2 mg%) at 30 minutes whereas that of the subjects who took of *Thunbergia laurifolia* Linn. prior to beer consumption was 54.4 mg% (SD 8.6 mg%). Consumption of *Thunbergia laurifolia* Linn. along with beer can reduce peak blood alcohol concentration

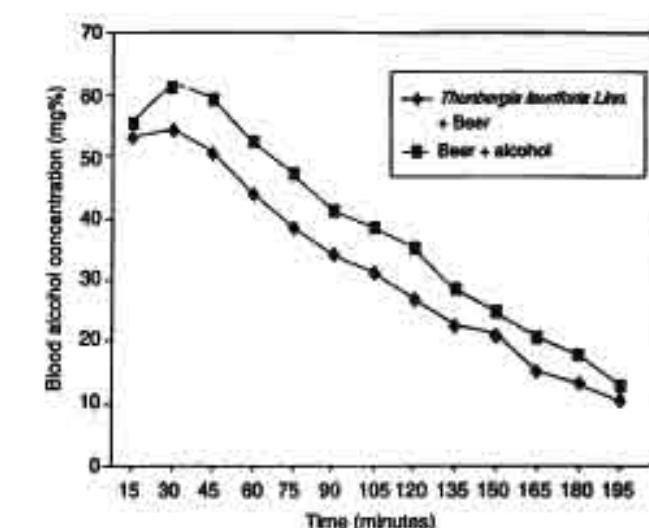


Fig. 1. Blood alcohol concentration time curves after beer consumption alone and consumption of *Thunbergia laurifolia* Linn. and beer.

by 11.7 per cent. The difference in blood alcohol concentration time curves between the two experiments was statistically significant (*p* < 0.001). No subjects reported any adverse reactions to *Thunbergia laurifolia* Linn..

DISCUSSION

This study used an alcohol breath test to determine blood alcohol concentration since it had been demonstrated that the alcohol level measured by breath test was highly correlated with that directly measured from blood with a correlation coefficient of 0.987 (*p* = 0.001)⁶. The results of the study revealed that taking *Thunbergia laurifolia* Linn. at a dosage of 1.8 grams just prior to alcohol consumption could reduce the peak blood alcohol concentration. This effect is likely to be due to a decrease in absorption of alcohol from the gastrointestinal tract. However, the effect of *Thunbergia laurifolia* Linn. is quite minimal since it could only reduce the blood alcohol

concentration by 11.7 per cent which might not be clinically important if a large amount of alcohol is consumed. The effect of a larger dose of *Thunbergia laurifolia* Linn. on blood alcohol concentration is unknown. It should be mentioned that our experiment was not performed in the subjects after taking meals instead of taking *Thunbergia laurifolia* Linn.; therefore, the findings observed in this study could be due either to a direct effect of *Thunbergia laurifolia* Linn. or a non-specific effect similar to taking alcohol after a meal.

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บทพิมพ์

บทพิมพ์ดังนี้เป็นบทพิมพ์ในรายชื่อที่ได้รับมาโดยอัตโนมัติในพิมพ์ดังนี้
ศิริวัฒน์ ศิริวัฒน์, อาดิพัช อาดิพัช, วิจิตร วิจิตรพัฒนา,
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น้ำหน้าที่ 100, หน้าที่ 100

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คำนำ

บทพิมพ์ดังนี้เป็นบทพิมพ์ในรายชื่อที่ได้รับมาโดยอัตโนมัติในพิมพ์ดังนี้

Changes in Hematologic Markers in Patients with Mitral Stenosis after Successful Percutaneous Balloon Mitral Valvuloplasty

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Systemic embolism is a major complication of mitral stenosis which is usually related to a presence of left atrial thrombus. Percutaneous balloon mitral valvuloplasty (PBMV) was previously reported to reduce the incidence of this complication. However, the mechanisms of this beneficial procedure was under investigated. The aim of this study was to investigate the changes in coagulation activity, platelet activity and endocardial function in 29 patients with mitral stenosis after successful PBMV. All subjects had good left ventricular systolic function and 48.3% had atrial fibrillation. There was a significant reduction in thrombin-antithrombin complex (TAT) after a successful procedure and the level of thrombomodulin was also significantly higher one month after successful procedure. However, the level of platelet factor 4 (PF₄) and beta-thromboglobulin (BTG) were increased after this procedure but not achieved the statistical significance.

In conclusion, successful PBMV can reduce the prethrombotic state in patients with mitral stenosis. In addition, it may improve endocardial function of the left atrium in those without atrial fibrillation.

Keywords : Mitral stenosis, Balloon mitral valvuloplasty, Left atrial thrombus

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A serious complication of mitral stenosis is systemic embolism. Risk factors for systemic embolism in mitral stenosis patients are old age, atrial fibrillation, the presence of left atrial thrombus, large left atrial size, previous history of embolism and small mitral valve area¹⁻³. The consequence of mitral valve obstruction is stasis of blood in the left atrium which may contribute to a local pre-thrombotic state due to abnormal activation of platelet activity and accumulation of circulating pre-thrombotic substances as reflected by the increased concentration of thrombin-anti-thrombin complex (TAT), Prothrombin activation F₁₊₂ and D-dimer in the left atrium of these patients⁴⁻¹⁰. If this abnormal physiology persists and gradually increases, it may overwhelm the ability of the fibrinolytic system to maintain hemostasis, and

thrombus formation may occur in the left atrium. Abnormal fibrinolysis has been found in patients with mitral stenosis as demonstrated by an increased level of PAI-1 (plasminogen activator inhibitor-1) in the peripheral blood¹¹. In addition, the level of thrombomodulin, reflecting the function of the endocardium of the left atrium was found to be decreased as a result of injury from high left atrial pressure which may predispose the patient to left atrial thrombus formation. One study reported that the patients who had previous percutaneous balloon mitral valvuloplasty (PBMV) had a lower incidence of thromboembolism¹¹. However, there is little data concerning the effects of balloon mitral valvuloplasty on coagulation and platelet activity in these patients.

The objective of the present study was to determine the changes in coagulation activity, platelet activity and endocardial function of the left atrium in patients with mitral stenosis after successful balloon mitral valvuloplasty.

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Patients and Method

The study was conducted in 29 patients with moderate to severe symptomatic mitral stenosis who had successful balloon mitral valvuloplasty at Siriraj Hospital between March and November 2002. Exclusion criteria included continuing use of aspirin or anticoagulant, stopping antiplatelet drugs or anticoagulant drugs less than 2 weeks before the study, having a history of renal or liver disease, pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis, malignancy or connective tissue disorder. Antiplatelet drugs (aspirin, dipyridamole and clopidogrel), warfarin and hemorheologically active drugs such as NSAIDs or estrogen containing drug were discontinued in all patients 10 days before the procedure. Transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography were performed the day before the mitral valvuloplasty procedure to assess the presence or absence of left atrial thrombi, interatrial septum, mitral valve score, spontaneous echo contrast (SEC), mitral valve area, transmural valve gradient and the severity of mitral regurgitation.

Percutaneous balloon mitral valvuloplasty procedure

Right and left heart catheterization were performed by a percutaneous approach with the right femoral vein and artery to obtain hemodynamic data before the process of dilatation. Subsequently, transeptal puncture was performed using the standard technique¹¹ and the Inoue balloon catheter was carefully inserted over a spring-coil wire into the left atrium and further manipulated into the left ventricle for mitral valve dilatation. A left ventriculogram was also performed before and after PBMV to assess left ventricular function and the degree of mitral regurgitation. A successful outcome was defined as a final mitral valve area, (determined by Gorlin's formulation) of more than 1.5 cm² without mitral regurgitation of more than grade 2 by Seller's Classification¹² with no major complications.

Blood sample collection and Assay procedure

A blood sample was collected from the patients on 2 occasions. The first blood collection was done by cautiously withdrawing 4.5 ml of blood from the vascular sheath placed in the femoral vein before heparin was administered. The second specimen was collected 1 month after the PBMV after discontinuing anti-platelet and anticoagulant drugs for at least 10 days. All blood samples were then

analyzed for hematologic markers including platelet count, PT, aPTT, F1+2, thrombin-antithrombin III complex (TAT), plasminogen activator inhibitors-1 (PAI-1), platelet factor 4 (PF₄), beta-thromboglobulin (BTG), thrombomodulin, von Willebrand factor (vWF) and fibrinogen.

Plasma concentration of F1+2 and TAT were measured using enzyme immunoassay kits from DADE BEHRING (E' NOST F1+2, E' NOST TAT). Plasma concentration of BTG, PF₄ and PAI-1 was determined by enzyme immunoassay kits from Diagnostic Stage, France (ASSERACHROM BTG, ASSERACHROM PF₄ and ASSERACHROM PAI-1). D-dimer was measured by a latex-enhanced, turbidimetric test from DADE BEHRING (BC D-dimer). Monoclonal antibodies specific to each detected parameter were used in all of the test systems.

Statistical analysis

Continuous variables are expressed as mean \pm SD and categorical variables as percent. A paired t-test was used to compare the hematologic markers pre-and post-mitral valvuloplasty if the data was normally distributed and a Wilcoxon Ranged test if the data were not normally distributed. A P value \leq 0.05 was considered significant.

Results

Out of 29 patients who had a successful procedure, 72.4% were female and 27.6% were male. The mean age was 40 years and 48.3% of the patients had atrial fibrillation. A previous history of stroke was found in 6.9% of the patients. All of them had good left ventricular systolic function with a mean left ventricular ejection fraction of 65%. The mean mitral valve area and transmural valve gradient before the dilatation procedure were 0.97 cm² and 12.35 mmHg respectively. After PBMV, the mean mitral valve area increased to 2.05 cm² and the mean transmural valve gradient was reduced to 5.07 mmHg as shown in Table 1.

The hematologic markers before and after PBMV are shown in Table 1. There was a significant reduction in TAT after a successful procedure. In addition, the level of F₁₊₂ also decreased but this was not statistically significant. Thrombomodulin was significantly higher one month after a successful procedure. The concentration of PF₄ and BTG were increased after successful dilatation but the differences were not significant. Finally, the level of PAI-1 was not significantly lowered after the valvuloplasty procedure.

Table 1. Hemodynamic data and hematologic markers pre-and post-PBMV in 29 patients

Hemodynamic data	Pre-PBMV	Post-PBMV	P
Mean \pm SD of Mitral valve area (cm 2)	0.97 \pm 0.28	2.05 \pm 0.54	< 0.001
Mean \pm SD of LA-LV gradient (mmHg)	12.35 \pm 4.07	5.07 \pm 2.22	< 0.001
Mean \pm SD of Pulmonary artery pressure (mmHg)	33.31 \pm 11.42	31.93 \pm 8.78	0.302
Mean \pm SD of Cardiac output (l/min/M 2)	3.95 \pm 0.84	4.70 \pm 0.92	< 0.001
Mitral regurgitation			
Grade 0	55.2%	44.8%	
Grade 1	41.4%	48.3%	
Grade 2	3.4%	6.9%	
Hematologic markers			
Mean \pm SD of PT (sec)	12.81 \pm 2.34	15.86 \pm 7.23	0.03
Mean \pm SD of PTT (sec)	31.42 \pm 5.78	34.67 \pm 7.94	0.06
Mean \pm SD of F1+2 (nmol/L)	0.91 \pm 0.53	0.75 \pm 0.78	0.3
Mean \pm SD of TAT (ug/L)	12.84 \pm 17.52	2.70 \pm 1.89	0.01
Mean \pm SD of PAI-1 (ng/ml)	13.15 \pm 12.55	11.60 \pm 9.05	0.45
Mean \pm SD of D-Dimer (ug/L)	233.72 \pm 135.60	255.45 \pm 169.01	0.21
Mean \pm SD of Platelet ($\times 10^9$)	235.76 \pm 57.83	225.34 \pm 60.84	0.23
Mean \pm SD of PF4 (IU/ml)	49.00 \pm 34.44	56.38 \pm 29.11	0.31
Mean \pm SD of DTG (IU/ml)	121.10 \pm 64.77	137.32 \pm 52.62	0.33
Mean \pm SD of Thrombomodulin (ng/ml)	6.43 \pm 1.25	8.01 \pm 2.07	0.001
Mean \pm SD of vWF (IU/ml)	100.68 \pm 27.64	108.91 \pm 22.41	0.05
Mean \pm SD of Fibrinogen (mg/dl)	393.45 \pm 129.67	414.31 \pm 115.90	0.27

NB: PT = Prothrombin time

F1+2 = Prothrombin activation fragment 1+2

PAI-1 = Plasminogen activation inhibitor-1

PF₄ = Platelet factor-4

PTT = Partial thromboplastin time

TAT = Thrombin-antithrombin complex

DTG = Beta-thromboglobulin

vWF = Von Willebrand factor

Discussion

Thromboembolic events in patients with mitral stenosis are associated with left atrial thrombus formation which is related to various potential mechanisms such as the accumulation of pre-thrombotic substances, an abnormality of endocardial function, increased platelet activation, decreased fibrinolysis and rhythm abnormality (atrial fibrillation)¹⁴⁻¹⁹. All of these abnormalities may be reduced by PBMV as shown in previous studies¹⁴⁻¹⁹.

In the present study, the authors demonstrated that the level of thrombin-antithrombin complex (TAT), a marker of thrombus formation, was significantly lower one month after successful balloon mitral valvuloplasty. In addition, the level of PAI-1 and F₁₊₂ were also decreased but this did not achieve statistical significance. These results confirm those of Zaki A et al who also reported that balloon mitral valvuloplasty caused a significant reduction of TAT in the right atrium 30 minutes after the procedure in a subgroup with a left atrial pressure of less than 10 mmHg¹⁹. The beneficial effect of PBMV on the level

of TAT was demonstrated significantly in the subgroup with atrial fibrillation as shown in Table 2. However, no significant changes of F₁₊₂ were observed in the present study. One reason may in part be explained by the different stage of the formation of TAT and F1+2 which gives different information about coagulation activity. Considering the level of D-dimer as shown in Table 1, the present study could not demonstrate a significant change of this marker after successful PBMV. The reason might be related to the method of measuring the level of this marker which is a latex-enhanced, turbidimetric method that is probably not as good as an ELISA technique. Another reason might be related to the small sample size.

Looking at the levels of vWF and thrombomodulin, which reflect endocardial function in the left atrium, these were also increased after a successful procedure especially in patients without atrial fibrillation as shown in Table 3. This was a new finding that has never previously been reported. It may indicate that successful PBMV can improve

Table 2. Hemodynamic data and hematologic markers pre-and post-PBMV in 14 patients with atrial fibrillation (AF)

Hemodynamic data	Patients with AF		
	Pre-PBMV	Post-PBMV	P
Mean \pm SD of Mitral valve area (cm ²)	0.91 \pm 0.33	1.97 \pm 0.62	< 0.001
Mean \pm SD of LA-LV gradient (mmHg)	11.29 \pm 4.45	5.80 \pm 2.80	< 0.001
Mean \pm SD of Pulmonary artery pressure (mmHg)	35.29 \pm 13.21	33.43 \pm 8.80	0.385
Mean \pm SD of Cardiac output (l/min/M ²)	3.47 \pm 0.61	4.17 \pm 0.66	< 0.001
Hematologic markers			
Mean \pm SD of PT (sec)	13.36 \pm 3.09	19.43 \pm 8.35	0.02
Mean \pm SD of PTT (sec)	32.69 \pm 7.55	38.73 \pm 6.32	0.07
Mean \pm SD of F1+2 (nmol/L)	0.96 \pm 0.68	0.75 \pm 1.02	0.46
Mean \pm SD of TAT (ug/L)	15.54 \pm 21.02	2.46 \pm 1.46	0.04
Mean \pm SD of PAI-1 (ng/ml)	17.62 \pm 15.80	13.86 \pm 11.51	0.37
Mean \pm SD of D-Dimer (ug/L)	223.43 \pm 83.90	235.00 \pm 160.80	0.69
Mean \pm SD of Platelet ($\times 10^9$)	257.21 \pm 69.32	229.21 \pm 73.93	0.05
Mean \pm SD of PF4 (IU/ml)	49.97 \pm 34.78	46.56 \pm 26.95	0.74
Mean \pm SD of DTG (IU/ml)	134.00 \pm 69.37	119.67 \pm 49.37	0.38
Mean \pm SD of Thrombomodulin(ng/ml)	6.52 \pm 1.42	7.28 \pm 1.46	0.18
Mean \pm SD of vWF (IU/ml)	110.66 \pm 21.86	114.53 \pm 18.63	0.6
Mean \pm SD of Fibrinogen (mg/dl)	403.08 \pm 124.41	445.17 \pm 93.02	0.08

NB: PT = Prothrombin time
 F1+2 = Prothrombin activation fragment 1+2
 PAI-1 = Plasminogen activation inhibitor-1
 PF₄ = Platelet factor-4

PTT = Partial thromboplastin time
 TAT = Thrombin-antithrombin complex
 DTG = Beta-thromboglobulin
 vWF = Von Willebrand factor

Table 3. Hemodynamic data and hematologic markers pre-and post-PBMV in 15 patients without atrial fibrillation (AF)

Hemodynamic data	Patients with AF		
	PrePBMV	PostPBMV	P
Mean \pm SD of Mitral valve area (cm ²)	1.03 \pm 0.22	2.13 \pm 0.46	< 0.001
Mean \pm SD of LA-LV gradient (mmHg)	13.33 \pm 3.56	5.13 \pm 1.60	< 0.001
Mean \pm SD of Pulmonary artery pressure (mmHg)	31.47 \pm 9.57	30.53 \pm 8.81	0.393
Mean \pm SD of Cardiac output (l/min/M ²)	4.39 \pm 0.80	5.21 \pm 0.87	< 0.001
Hematologic markers			
Mean \pm SD of PT (sec)	12.29 \pm 1.24	12.53 \pm 3.87	0.8
Mean \pm SD of PTT (sec)	30.23 \pm 3.27	30.88 \pm 5.22	0.57
Mean \pm SD of F1+2 (nmol/L)	0.85 \pm 0.36	0.75 \pm 0.51	0.43
Mean \pm SD of TAT (ug/L)	10.33 \pm 13.76	2.93 \pm 2.25	0.07
Mean \pm SD of PAI-1 (ng/ml)	8.98 \pm 6.69	9.48 \pm 5.56	0.66
Mean \pm SD of D-Dimer (ug/L)	243.33 \pm 173.31	274.53 \pm 179.73	0.13
Mean \pm SD of Platelet ($\times 10^9$)	215.73 \pm 36.58	221.73 \pm 47.96	0.54
Mean \pm SD of PF4 (IU/ml)	48.10 \pm 35.31	65.93 \pm 28.75	0.11
Mean \pm SD of DTG (IU/ml)	109.06 \pm 60.01	153.79 \pm 51.68	0.03
Mean \pm SD of Thrombomodulin(ng/ml)	6.34 \pm 1.12	8.70 \pm 2.35	0.001
Mean \pm SD of vWF (IU/ml)	91.36 \pm 29.86	103.67 \pm 24.91	0.010
Mean \pm SD of Fibrinogen (mg/dl)	384.47 \pm 138.12	385.51 \pm 130.34	0.97

NB: PT = Prothrombin time
 F1+2 = Prothrombin activation fragment 1+2
 PAI-1 = Plasminogen activation inhibitor-1
 PF₄ = Platelet factor-4

PTT = Partial thromboplastin time
 TAT = Thrombin-antithrombin complex
 DTG = Beta-thromboglobulin
 vWF = Von Willebrand factor

endocardial function in these patients. Thus, the possibility of left atrial thrombus formation can be reduced. Regarding platelet activity, in contrast to a previous study¹⁴, the present study found that platelet activity, reflected by the level of D-TG and PF_{v} , was not significantly decreased after successful PBMV. Moreover, when the authors analyzed only the subgroup without atrial fibrillation, it was noted that the level of D-TG was significantly higher after successful PBMV (Table 3). Therefore, it is plausible that in patients with mitral stenosis and no atrial fibrillation, this procedure might provoke thromboembolic events one month after a successful procedure via the mechanism of increased platelet activity. However, this finding should be further investigated in the future with a larger sample size. It should be mentioned that there are some limitations to the present study. First, the authors included only patients with moderate to severe mitral stenosis, thus, it may not be appropriate to apply the present results to those with mild mitral stenosis. Second, from the present study, the impact is not known of PBMV on patients with adequate mitral valve dilatation who develop mitral regurgitation of greater than grade 3 (by Seller's Classification) because of the small size of this subgroup. Third, knowledge of TAT regarding to the level which is prone to thrombosis is still lacking.

In summary, successful PBMV can reduce the pre-thrombotic state in patients with severe mitral stenosis as demonstrated by the decreased level of TAT after a successful procedure. In addition, PBMV may improve the endocardial function of the left atrium in those without atrial fibrillation as shown by the increased level of vWF and thrombomodulin.

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การเปลี่ยนแปลงของปัจจัยการเกิดคื่นเสือตในห้องห้าวใจเดรีมมาร์ทในผู้ป่วยลืมไม่หรือลืบคืนหลังได้รับการรักษาอย่างต่อเนื่อง

ເຊື້ອຕີ່ ພັນອົງກົງທອງຄໍາ, ວິໄລມະ ຄຣົມທີ່ອົງກົງ, ເຄໂຫຼວງ ຈັກກະພາບນິຍກອງ, ສັນຍິພັດ ອຄນພັນອົງກົງ

การศึกษานี้ถูกใจว่าการขยายตัวในเวร์ดที่บ่อกำไรบ่อมีผลต่อการท่องเที่ยวและเศรษฐกิจ แต่การท่องเที่ยวในเวร์ดที่บ่อกำไรบ่อมีผลต่อการขยายตัวในเวร์ดที่บ่อกำไร

Effectiveness of Physical Therapy for Patients with Adhesive Capsulitis: a Randomized Controlled Trial

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Objective: To compare the effectiveness of a combined technique of physical and ibuprofen for the treatment of adhesive capsulitis with ibuprofen alone.

Material and Method: 122 subjects were randomly allocated to have 3 weeks treatment either with ibuprofen ($n=61$) or ibuprofen and a combined technique of physical therapy ($n=61$). Outcome measures were carried out 3 weeks and 12 weeks after randomization. Primary outcome measures were the success of treatment measured by improvement in the Shoulder Pain and Disability Index, and global rating.

Results: At 3 weeks, 21 (35.0%) of 60 patients in the study group were considered to have had successful treatment compared with 11 (18.6%) of 59 in the control group (difference between groups 16.4%, 95% CI: 4.0-31.3, $p=0.044$). There was no significant difference in the success rate between the two groups at the 12th week follow-up.

Conclusion: The results of this study support the use of physical therapy for patients with adhesive capsulitis.

Keywords: Randomised controlled trial, Physical Therapy, Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, Adhesive capsulitis

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Adhesive capsulitis (so-called "frozen shoulder") is a common problem in general practice, rheumatologic, orthopaedic and rehabilitation clinics. It is characterised by shoulder pain that is aggravated by movement and limitation of the range of shoulder motion and daily activities. Several different therapeutic regimens have been used for the purpose of increasing the extent and speed of recovery. Conventional management includes patient advice, analgesics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), steroid injection and a wide variety of physical therapy methods. Manipulation while anaesthetised can be effective, but significant complications have been documented and publication reports protracted recovery¹⁻³. Arthroscopic release done under general anaesthesia is invasive and few patients' outcomes have been reported³⁻⁵.

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Various physical therapy regimens are used conventionally. Systematic reviews have shown that there is insufficient data to draw a conclusion about the effectiveness of physical therapy⁴⁻⁹. However, previous studies usually compared the efficacy of one component of physical therapy which were unlike routine use. For example, comparing the effect of ultrasound alone⁶⁻⁹ or mobilisation alone¹⁰. Winter et al studied the effects of "classic" physical therapy, manipulation and corticosteroid injection. Their survival analysis showed that the duration of shoulder complaint in patients with a synovial problem was shortest in the corticosteroid injection group. However, the "classic" physical therapy in this study comprised exercise therapy, massage and physical application but no mobilisation techniques were allowed¹¹. Van de Windt et al tried to enhance the external validity of this study by adding passive mobilisation in their PT protocol¹¹ but they used a superficial modality instead of the deep heat modality

that is usually recommended in a chronic condition like adhesive capsulitis¹¹.

The primary objective of this prospective, randomised, controlled trial was to study the effectiveness of a combined technique of PT, which is similar to the usual clinical practice in patients with primary adhesive capsulitis in terms of success rate. The secondary objectives were to compare the mean quantity of analgesic used, the mean change in The Shoulder Pain and Disability Index (The SPADI)¹², the mean change in the range of motion, and patients' satisfaction between the two groups including any adverse effects of PT.

Material and Method

Subjects

All patients who had shoulder pain and limitation of a passive range of shoulder motion in all directions that interfered with their activities of daily living and attended the orthopaedic and rehabilitation clinic at Siriraj Hospital were eligible for the study. Exclusion criteria included patients with secondary adhesive capsulitis; with intrinsic causes of shoulder problems such as a history of fracture, or dislocation or extrinsic causes such as neuromuscular disorders (stroke, parkinsonism), generalised arthritis, bilateral involvement, contraindication for NSAIDs, or who had bleeding tendencies.

Randomization

The patients who gave informed written consent were randomly allocated to a 3-week treatment protocol by simple randomisation using a random numbers table and allocation concealed within an opaque envelope.

Assessments

The outcomes of the intervention were assessed at 3 weeks. The patients were asked to rate one global rating on pain and disability on a five point Likert scale; disappearance of shoulder complaints, some pain or limitation but which does not interfere with everyday life, minimal inconvenience to everyday life, moderate inconvenience, and marked inconvenience. For measuring the primary outcome, patients were counted as a success if they rated themselves as having disappearance of shoulder complaints or some pain/ limitation which does not interfere with everyday life. The following secondary outcome measures were included:

1. The Shoulder Pain and Disability Index (the SPADI) score change. The SPADI is a 13 item, self-administered instrument developed by Roach KE et al in 1991¹². It consists of two separate scales: one for pain and the other for functional activities. The score varies from 0 to 100. A higher score indicates worse problems. The change in score for each patient was calculated for each patient by subtracting the result at baseline from the follow-up at the end of the 3rd week.

2. Range of shoulder motion measured with a goniometer according to the method advocated by Clarke by a investigator blinded to the type of treatment¹³. The goniometer was attached by a Velcro[®] strap to the upper arm with the patient sitting upright for total abduction. External rotation of the shoulder was assessed while lying supine with the shoulder in 90 degrees of abduction and the goniometer attached to the dorsal aspect of the forearm. Internal rotation range was quantified by measuring the distance between the spine of C7 and the tip of the thumb with the arm fully internal rotated. An independent study demonstrated that the inter-rater reliability for abduction, external rotation and internal rotation was 0.98, 0.92, and 0.99 respectively.

3. Patients' satisfaction was rated concerning the treatment regimens on a four point Likert scale "very satisfied, moderately satisfied, unsatisfied, very unsatisfied".

4. The quantity of analgesic used was calculated from the number prescribed minus the number of pills left.

5. Adverse reactions recorded by the patients who received the PT program for the questions "Do you have pain that persisted more than 2 hours after treatment or more disability the next morning or not?" Moreover, at each follow-up, an investigator, blinded to treatment modality asked all patients "Have the trial drugs and/or treatment program upset you in any way?" and examined the patient for any signs of ecchymosis or burn during range of motion evaluation.

Additional follow-up assessments were scheduled to evaluate the primary outcome only at 6, 12, and 24 weeks. The assessments at 12 and 24 weeks were by telephone or postal questionnaire.

Intervention

The patients in the control group had ibuprofen 400 mg three times daily for 3 weeks and they also received an information sheet containing advice on protection of the shoulder from vigorous

activities such as pushing and pulling. They were encouraged to use their arms in a normal fashion for reaching and other activities of daily life. All the subjects were asked to have no other adjuvant therapy during the study except for oral acetaminophen (up to 6 g/day). All of them were asked to record if they received any additional treatment.

The patients in the study group had ibuprofen and general advice, which was same as the control group in addition to the combined technique of PT. A hospital-based PT program was carried out 3 times a week by each of the three research physical therapists whose performance had been standardised. Each session comprised short wave diathermy (20 minutes), mobilisation and passive glenohumeral joint stretching exercises up to the patient's tolerance. On the days they did not receive the hospital-based PT program, they were advised to perform pulley exercises (actively assisted exercises for 5 minutes). Active non-assisted exercises using a towel and wall (5 minutes after applying a hot pack for 20 minutes). The exercise guideline was based on Cyriax¹⁴. If, during the passive movements the patients felt pain before the therapist reached the end of the range, exercise was contraindicated. If pain was experienced at the end of the range then exercise was attempted. Subjects were asked to complete a diary documenting the number of hospital-based PT they actually received and the number of home exercise programs they performed. The number of patients needing additional treatment after three weeks and the types of treatment received are shown in Table 3.

Statistical analysis

Intention to treat analysis was used to evaluate a statistical difference between the two groups. Chi-square was used in comparing the proportions of patients. Using Student - t test, compared the difference in the mean improvements in The SPADI score and range of motion between the two groups. The Man-Whitney U test was used to compare the median of patients' satisfaction between the two groups. Multiple logistic regression was used to detect any effects of the difference in baseline.

Sample size calculation was based on the ability to detect a clinically important difference in success rate of 25% between two groups. The authors assumed a success rate of 40% in the group having the least successful treatment and, thus, estimated a target sample size of 60 patients in each group. (two-tailed, $\alpha = 0.05$, $\beta = 0.02$).

Results

From January 2001 to September, 2001, 255 patients with adhesive capsulitis attended the orthopaedic clinic and rehabilitation at Siriraj Hospital. There was a total of 122 patients with adhesive capsulitis who fulfilled the eligible criteria and were willing to join the present study. Of the 133 subjects not recruited, it was inconvenient for 83 cases because they lived far away from Bangkok, so they were instructed to receive treatment and to be followed up at the hospital in their hometown instead of the coming to Bangkok, 28 had secondary adhesive capsulitis, 16 had contra-indications for NSAIDs, and 6 had bilateral involvement. At the end of the 3rd week, 2 subjects dropped out from the study; 1 from the control group and 1 from the study group. The total number of cases included in the analysis was 59 in the control and 60 in the study group. By the end of the 24th week, a total of 12 cases (10.1%) had withdrawn from the study (Fig. 1). All of them lost to follow-up for unknown reasons and the investigators could not contact them.

Details of the baseline characteristics of the patients are shown in Table 1. The study group tended to have a greater male/ female ratio, more subjects who had a history of minor trauma before onset, less association with neck pain and less personal preference as to randomisation. However, these differences were not statistically significant.

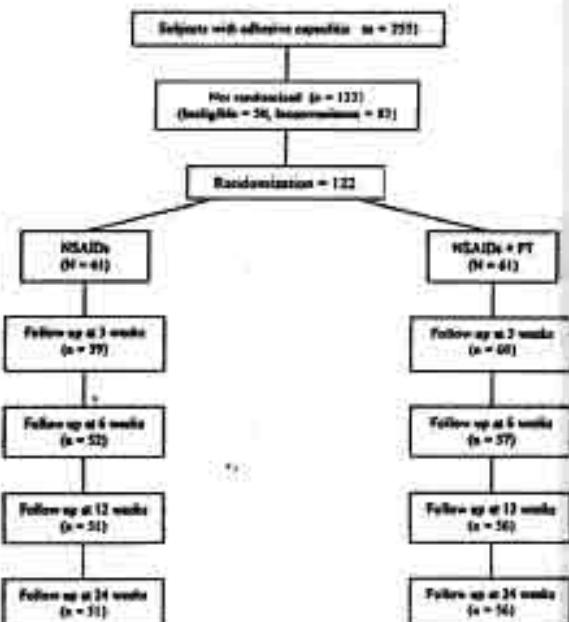


Fig. 1. Summary data for study recruitment and completion.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients with adhesive capsulitis by group. Values are numbers (percentages) unless indicated otherwise

Baseline variables	The control group (n = 59)	The study group (n = 60)
Mean (SD) of age (years)	57.7 (10.0)	56.3 (10.6)
Gender (male, female)	14 (23.7%), 45 (73.3%)	24 (40.0%), 36 (60.0%)
Duration of disability:		
- < 6 weeks	6 (10.2%)	13 (21.7%)
- 6 weeks but < 12 weeks	20 (33.9%)	20 (33.3%)
- ≥ 12 weeks	33 (55.9%)	27 (45.0%)
Dominant shoulder involvement	31 (52.5%)	28 (46.7%)
History of minor trauma before onset	11 (18.6%)	17 (28.3%)
Associated with DM	10 (16.9%)	10 (16.7%)
Concomitant neck pain	12 (20.3%)	8 (13.0%)
Patient's preference at randomisation	50 (89.8%)	45 (76.7%)
Global rating of pain and disability		
- No shoulder complaint	0	0
- Some pain or limitation but does not interfere with everyday life	0	0
- Minimal inconvenience	12 (20.3%)	9 (15.0%)
- Moderate inconvenience	34 (57.6%)	35 (58.3%)
- marked inconvenience	13 (22.3%)	16 (26.7%)
Mean (SD) of the SPADI score*	50.6 (16.6)	54.93 (21.3)
Range of motion		
- Mean (SD) glenohumeral abduction (degree)	121.3 (27.8)	121.9 (27.8)
- Mean (SD) glenohumeral external rotation (degree)	75.3 (16.0)	74.8 (22.1)
- Mean (SD) of distance between tip of thumb and C7 spine (cm)**	41.1 (10.3)	41.2 (10.6)

* Pain and disability as rated on the SPADI score in which scores range from 0-100; the higher scores indicate more severe pain and disability

** Internal rotation was quantified by measuring distance between thumb and tip of C7 spine in hand behind back position

At the end of the 3rd week, 21 cases (35.0%) in the study group (n = 60) had successful treatment, whereas, 11 cases (18.6%) in the control group (n = 59) were successful. The difference between groups was 16.4% (95% CI: 4.0-31.3, p = 0.040).

For secondary outcome variables, the number of analgesics used, changes of the SPADI scores, and range of motion improvement (glenohumeral abduction, external rotation and internal rotation) were continuous data. All of these variables were tested for normality of distribution. It was found that improvements in the SPADI scores, and ranges of motion were normally distributed. These changes were tested for differences between the 2 groups by Student's t-test. The quantity of analgesics used in both groups was tested by Mann-Whitney U test due to the fact that this parameter was not normally distributed.

The mean (standard deviation) changes of the SPADI scores of the study group and the control

group were 11.9 (14.2) points and 20.4 (15.4) points, respectively. The subjects in the study group showed a mean improvement in the score of 8.6 points more than the control group (95% CI: 3.1-13.9 points, p = 0.002).

Regarding range of motion, the study group showed a mean improvement in glenohumeral abduction 7.2 degrees more than the control group (95% CI: 1.2-14.2 degrees, p = 0.005) (Table 2). For glenohumeral external rotation, the mean improvement in the study group was 3.0 degrees more than the control group but the difference was not statistically significant (95% CI: -2.0 to 8.6, p = 0.085). The distance between the thumb to the tip of C7 spine (cm) was used to quantify glenohumeral internal rotation. The analysis showed that the study group showed a significantly greater improvement than the control group (p = 0.015). The magnitude of the difference was 3.3 centimetres (95% CI was 0.7 cm to 6.0 cm).

Table 2. Outcome variables of patients with adhesive capsulitis by group of treatment at the end of the 3rd week with additional follow-up of primary outcome. Values are numbers (percentages) unless indicated otherwise

Outcome variables	The control group (n = 59)	The study group (n = 60)	Difference (95% CI)	P-value
Had successful treatment				
- 3 weeks	11/59 (18.6%)	21/60 (35.0%)	16.4% (4.0%–31.3%)	0.044
- 6 weeks	22/52 (42.3%)	35/57 (61.4%)	19.1% (4.0%–36.1%)	0.046
- 12 weeks	31/51 (60.8%)	43/56 (76.8%)	16.0% (-1.50%–32.5%)	0.073
- 24 weeks	42/51 (82.4%)	45/56 (80.4%)	-2.0% (-16.6%–13.1%)	0.791
Mean (SD) of the SPADI score improvement	11.9 (14.2)	20.5 (15.4)	8.6 (3.1 to 13.9)	0.002
Mean (SD) of improvement in abduction (degree)	14.7 (18.1)	21.9 (21.0)	7.2 (1.2 to 14.2)	0.005
Mean (SD) of improvement in external rotation (degree)	18.3 (15.4)	21.3 (15.3)	3.0 (-2.6 to 8.6)	0.085
Mean (SD) of improvement in internal rotation (cm)	3.0 (7.0)	6.3 (7.7)	3.3 (0.7 to 6.0)	0.040
Mean rank of number of analgesic use (tab)	58.59	61.38		0.652*
Satisfaction:				
- Very satisfied	1		5	
- Moderately satisfied	1	7		< 0.001
- Unsatisfied	13		24	
- Very unsatisfied	45		23	

Mann-Whitney U test found that the median quantity of analgesics used did not differ significantly between the two groups ($p = 0.652$).

For ordinal secondary outcomes, Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare the results between the two groups. It was found that the subjects in the study group rated their satisfaction better than the subjects in the control group, which was significant ($P < 0.001$) (Table 2).

During the 3-week period, the patients in the study group reported a total of 10 episodes of pain that persisted more than 2 hours after treatment from 4 subjects. There were no other complications recorded. Regarding NSAIDs, 15 subjects (12.6%) had gastrointestinal side effects; the number of those who had severe dyspepsia and had to stop NSAIDs was 6 (4.2%). There were 2 reports of severe oedema and 1 case with a severe headache, which rapidly subsided after the drug was discontinued.

Compliance, Contamination and Co-Intervention

About three-quarters of the subjects of both groups received NSAIDs as prescribed. The reasons why some patients received fewer NSAIDs than the others was due to gastrointestinal discomfort, forgetting to take them or a misunderstanding about the schedule. In the study group, 7 cases (11.7%) received fewer than 6 sessions of

hospital-based PT, 5 cases (8.3%) performed the home programme exercises fewer than 6 sessions. Two cases from the control group reported that they had additional treatment; 1 had Chinese herbal medicine and 1 received analgesics from a private clinic. No patient in the control group had hospital-based PT or home exercise therapy for their shoulder. The number of patients needing additional treatment after three weeks and the types of treatment received are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Number (percentage) of patients with adhesive capsulitis needing treatment for residual pain and disability at the fourth week follow-up (treatment no longer restricted to interventions as described in protocol)

Additional treatment	The control group (n = 52)	The study group (n = 57)
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs	18 (34.6%)	13 (22.8%)
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and physical therapy	12 (23.1%)	17 (29.8%)
Physical therapy	3 (5.4%)	5 (8.8%)
Corticosteroid injections	3 (5.4%)	3 (5.3%)
Home exercise	13 (25.0%)	21 (36.8%)

At the 6th week, 35 cases (61.4%) in the study group (n=57) were counted as successful, whereas 22 (18.6%) cases in the control group (n=52) were successful. The study group had a greater success rate than the control group by 19.1% (95% confidence interval: 4.0-36.1, p=0.044). There was no significant difference between the two groups at the 12th and 24th week follow-up (Table 2).

Discussion

This randomised, controlled trial demonstrated that the 3-week treatment regimen comprising a combined technique of PT and ibuprofen produced more beneficial effects than the use of ibuprofen alone for the treatment of (primary) adhesive capsulitis in terms of success rate, improvement in the SPADI score, patients' satisfaction and improvement in the range of motion. At the end of the 6th week, the success rate of patients who received physical therapy was more than the success rate of the control group. After that, the differences were not statistically significant. The results were analysed by intention to treat analysis even though the treatments actually received were modified from the protocol, because it was found that the reasons for modifying the treatment were strongly related to the results of allocated interventions^{11,12}.

The results of the present study are different from previous studies in which systematic reviews concluded that there was insufficient data to draw conclusions about the effectiveness of PT¹⁴⁻¹⁹. The reasons might be due to the fact that the PT regimen in the present study comprised important components. Deep heat modality was introduced in order to increase the tissue temperature and its extensibility, making a passive range of motion more effective^{11,13}. To use this combined technique of PT in addition to NSAIDs can make the patients more comfortable.

One important limitation in the present study was the lack of the blinding process. It was not possible to keep the subjects blinded as to the experimental conditions for each subject and as the primary outcome was a subjective measurement, it was probably directly influenced by the subjects preconceived idea regarding the effectiveness of intervention. Patients' preferences can be an important determinant of the outcomes¹⁴⁻¹⁷. Participants who were randomised to their treatment of choice may have a better outcome irrespective of the physiological effects of the intervention. The placebo treatment,

which theoretically would have alleviated this threat to internal validity, was not convenient in the present study. Therefore, the differences of primary outcome between the two groups in the present study could be due to a placebo effect. However, this problem might have been partly ameliorated because the patients' treatment preferences were elicited after randomisation and it was found that the patients in the control group had a tendency to prefer their allocated treatment compared with the patients in the study group. This would make it unlikely that the difference in primary outcome at the end of the study was due to the patients' preference.

The deviation from the protocol in the present study might not reverse the results. On the contrary, the differences of the outcomes at the end of the study should be elicited more easily if there was no protocol deviation. Because the patients in the study group received fewer treatments than the schedule determined (six cases had fewer than 6 sessions of hospital-based PT and 6 cases performed home exercise fewer than 6 sessions), while the subjects in the control group received more treatment than the schedule (one case had Chinese herbal medicine and 1 case had analgesics from a private clinic).

In conclusion, the results of the present study give us evidence to support the use of physical therapy for patients with adhesive capsulitis from the beginning of the treatment.

However, because a combined technique of physical therapy needs a wide variety of resources such as people, time, facilities and equipment, it is necessary to carry out a further study to evaluate the economic aspect of this study to provide a balance sheet of the benefits, harms and costs for making the choice for a combined treatment regimen. If the combined technique of physical therapy is not cost-effective, a home-programme of physical therapy should be an alternative intervention to be studied in a further trial.

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ศึกษาเบริญเพื่อประกอบประดิษฐ์และระหว่างการทำการแพทย์บำบัดร่วมกับการใช้ยาด้านการอักเสบอย่างเดียวในผู้ป่วยอ่อนช้อให้ดีกว่าเดิม

กิ่งแก้ว ป่าธีร์, นวพร ชัชราพานิชย์, สมพักษ์ ทีฆะวนะกิจ, จันทร์จิรา เกิดวัน, พัชรินทร์ ทุกอรักษา, ญาณณี วงศ์ราษฎร์

วัตถุประสงค์ : เพื่อเบริญเพื่อประกอบประดิษฐ์และระหว่างการทำการแพทย์บำบัดร่วมกับการใช้ยาด้านการอักเสบกับการใช้ยาด้านการอักเสบอย่างเดียวในผู้ป่วยอ่อนช้อให้ดีกว่าเดิม

วิธีการ : ศึกษาเบริญเพื่อประกอบประดิษฐ์และระหว่างการทำการแพทย์บำบัดร่วมกับการใช้ยาด้านการอักเสบกับการใช้ยาด้านการอักเสบอย่างเดียวในผู้ป่วยที่มีบурсิทิสของกลุ่มที่ 1 ที่มีอาการปวดบ่าและบ่าด้านหลังที่รุนแรงมาก 3 สัปดาห์ กลุ่มควบคุมรักษาด้วยยา Ibuprofen กลุ่มที่ศึกษาให้รักษาด้วยยา Ibuprofen ร่วมกับการทำการแพทย์บำบัดที่โรงพยาบาลส์ทักษิณ 3 ครั้ง ประวัติยาและยาที่รักษา 3, 6, 12 และ 24 วัน สำหรับการประเมินด้วยแบบประเมินความเจ็บปวด The Numeric Shoulder Pain and Disability Index (ภาคภาษาไทย) และ global rating of improvement นำตัวอย่างกลุ่มมาเบริญเพื่อเปรียบเทียบกับตัวอย่างที่มี Intention to treat analysis

ผลการศึกษา : เมื่อครบ 3 สัปดาห์ พนัก 35.0 (21 รายจากจำนวน 60 ราย) ของผู้ป่วยกลุ่มศึกษา ประสบความสำเร็จในการรักษา มากกว่ากลุ่มควบคุม ซึ่งเปรียบเทียบความสำเร็จของทั้ง 2 กลุ่ม คือเป็นร้อยละ 16.4 (ค่าร้อยละ 95 ของความเชื่อมั่น = ร้อยละ 4.0 - 31.3, ค่า $p = 0.044$) เมื่อตัดความครบ 6 สัปดาห์ ตัวความสำเร็จของกลุ่มศึกษาด้านการรักษาด้วยยา Ibuprofen 19.1 (ค่าร้อยละ 95 ของความเชื่อมั่น = ร้อยละ 4.0 - 36.1, ค่า $p = 0.046$)

สรุป : การรักษาด้วยยา Ibuprofen ร่วมกับการทำการแพทย์บำบัดในผู้ป่วยอ่อนช้อให้ดีกว่าเดิม

