

Independent Study Title Expenditure and Length of Stay of Patient
Injured From Motorcycle Accident at Maharaj
Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate expenditure and length of stay of patients injured from motorcycle accident admitted in Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital by interviewing patients or cousins and analyzing records about accidents i.e. cause, time, expenditure. The study was conducted in a purposive sample of all patients admitted from motorcycle accident during 1 - 31 January 1994 accounted to 104 subjects and its data were analyzed by using frequency, arithmetic mean, standard deviation, unpaired t-test, Chi-square test, and correlation.

The results revealed that most of the sample were male (89.4%), in 14-24 year group and having mean age of 24.79 ± 8.79 years, single marital status (68.3 %), living outside municipal area (70.2 %), completed primary education level (45.2 %), wage earner (58.7 %), and average income between 1001-3000 baht/month (63.7 %).

The information about motorcycle accident showed that most of

the patients had their own motorcycles, having driving experiences for 1-5 years, having no accident insurance, having no driving license, and not wearing helmet during motorcycle driving. These accidents were their first episode. The leading causes of accidents were drunkenness and carelessness. Accidents mostly took place on highways during 8.01-12.00 pm and 1.01-4.00 am.

Extremity injury was the leading site of injury and head injury was the next. The most common medical treatment was the operation. Most of the patients had been admitted for 1-5 days and 6-10 days respectively. The average medical expenditure of patients with head injury was 13201.02 baht while that of patients with other injuries was 6476.39 baht. Most of the patients who had no legal right of medical care and had to pay for themselves had average expenditure of 9027.58 baht. Only 48.0 % of them who fully paid had the average payment of 5146.98 baht.

The patients who wore helmets had significantly less medical expenditure than those who did not. The traveling cost of cousins of those who did not wear helmet was also higher than that of who wore helmets.

Helmet wearing had no statistically significant association with head injury.

All medical expenditure, income loss and opportunity cost of patients with head injury were higher than those of patients with other injuries statistically significant.

The results of this study suggest that government pay more attention to accident prevention policy and planning, including safety measures, strict law enforcement, public information and public relations about accident, to stimulate the motorcycle drivers to be more aware of accident and having safety-minded in order to reduce the incidence of traffic accident.