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Tuberculosis is currently re-emerging as a major public health problem in many countries. This disease re-emerge because of increasing of HIV infection, multi-drug resistance, immigration and life style changing . The economic data is very importance to policy maker for planning in the national tuberculosis control programme. However in Thailand there is no such study about economic impact of tuberculosis on household. Therefore the purpose of this study was to investigate the economic impact of tuberculosis on household in Thailand.

The subject were the patients with tuberculosis who recieved anti-tuberculosis drug treatment in four Tuberculosis center (Chonburi province, Pisanuloke province, Ubolrachathani province, Yala Province), four provincial hospital (Chunthaburi, Phrea, Yasothorn, Yala) and eight district hospital (Pong-Num-Ron, Thamai, Denchai, Long, Kudchum, Mahachanachai, Ramun, Yaha). There were 674 patients who were recruited in this study. The sample was selected by Stratified random sampling in 4 region in Thailand, using self weighting sampling. Then, simple random sampling was used at health care level. The questionnaire was be structured for this study and the data collection was collect in December 1996.

It was found that the average total cost of tuberculosis patient in six months of treatment was 4,218 Baths per case which equal to 32.3 % of the patient's income, 6.8 % of the household's income and 6.8 % of the Gross Domestic Product per capita. The expenditure of tuberculosis patient prior to recieved treatment was 2,732 Baths. There was statistical difference significant among the average total cost in each region, health care's level but no statistical difference in kind of tuberculosis patient. The average direct cost of TB patient was 724 Baths and indirect cost was 2,564 Baths. The ratio of direct cost and indirect cost was 1:3.5.

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