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KEY WORD : METHADONE/HEROIN ADDICTION/METHADONE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

PATRABOON NAKSUSUK : RESULT OF 40 AND 60 MILLIGRAMS METHADONE DOSAGES IN TREATMENT OF HEROIN ADDICTION WITH METHADONE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM : THESIS ADVISOR : INSTRUCTOR EM INTAKORN. 89 PP. ISBN 974-579-865-7

The objective of this research was to compare the results obtained from methadone 40 and 60 milligrams daily for the treatment of heroin addiction in the Methadone Maintenance Program. The patients comprised intravenous heroin addicts admitted into the Methadone Maintenance Program, Department of Psychiatry, Chulalongkorn Hospital. The studied population numbered 84 patients. These patients had already undergone a six-week detoxification process and had no traces morphine metabolites in their urine. They were then split into two groups by Simple Random Sampling assignment ; the first group recieved 40 milligrams of oral methadone daily, and the second group recieved 60 milligrams of oral methadone daily. During the next 4 weeks each patient's urine was re-examined without the prior knowledge of the patient. Testing was repeated every 4 weeks until 15 weeks had passed. Results of urine testing showed that those patients recieving 60 milligrams of methadone daily had fewer morphine metabolites in their urine than those recieving 40 milligrams. Therefore, it was concluded that 60 milligrams of methadone gave better results than 40 milligrams of methadone. This had statistical significance ($p < .05$). There were no complications from treatment with methadone in both groups.