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SAMORN JONGSOMJITR : FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE OF PATIENTS WITH CORONARY HEART DISEASE CAUSED BY SMOKING. THESIS ADVISORS : JAYANTON PATUMANOND, M.D., M.P.H., D.Sc., VICHIAN THONGTANG, M.D., SOMSAK THAMTHITIWAT, M.D., M.P.H., SIRISAKVARINTRAVAT, M.D., M.P.H. 171 p. ISBN 974-662-048-7

Coronary heart disease (CHD) is one of the major public health problems in Thailand. It is partly attributable to smoking, the prevalence of which is high in the Thai population.

An analytic cross-sectional study was conducted to evaluate both the direct and indirect expenses of patients with coronary heart disease, and its association with age, gender, duration of illness, disease severity, symptoms, types of treatment and the number of co-morbidity. The study was conducted in 7 government hospitals located in 4 regions of Thailand and the Bangkok Metropolis, between May and October 1998. The study sample included 600 subjects : 300 patients with coronary heart disease and 300 subjects in the reference group. Data were collected using direct interviews with the patients and/or their relatives.

The average financial expenditure of patients with coronary heart disease was 1,479 baht per month, which was significantly higher compared to that of the reference group, which was 29 baht per month ($p < 0.001$). An association of expenditure and age, gender, duration of illness, severity of disease, symptoms, types of treatment and the number of co-morbidity was explored. After adjusting for difference in baseline characteristics by a multivariable analysis, the expenditure of patients with CHD decreased with age and duration of illness, but increased in males, when the severity of disease, symptom, aggressiveness of treatment and the number of co-morbidity increased.

When integrated with secondary information regarding the smoking situation in Thailand, the result from this study indicated that patients with CHD all over the country are spending 2,310 million baht per year for their illness. This figure provides strong evidence supporting the continuation of antismoking campaign.