

4036638 SIEP/M : MAJOR : EPIDEMIOLOGY; M.Sc. (EPIDEMIOLOGY)

KEY WORDS : FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE / COPD / SMOKING

SURANGRAT PONGPAN : FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE OF PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE CAUSED BY SMOKING. THESIS ADVISER : JAYANTON PATUMANOND, M.D., M.P.H., D.Sc., NITIPATANA CHIERAKUL, M.D., Dip Thai Board of Int. Med., SOMSAK THAMTHITIWAT, M.D., M.P.H., DUSIT SUJIRARAT, M.Sc., 177 p. ISBN 974-662-049-5

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is one of the major public health problems in Thailand. There is strong evidences that the most important cause of COPD is smoking, the prevalence of which is high in the Thai population.

An analytic cross-sectional study was conducted to evaluate the direct and indirect financial expenditure of patients with COPD, and its changes with age, duration and severity of the disease. The study was conducted in 8 governmental hospitals located in 4 regions of Thailand and the Bangkok Metropolis, between May and October 1998. The study included 500 subjects, 250 patients with COPD in the index group and 250 subjects in the reference group. Data were obtained by direct interviewing with the patients and/or their relatives, using structured questionnaires.

The average financial expenditure of patients with COPD was 638 baht per month, which was significantly higher than that of the reference group which was 11 baht per month ($p < 0.001$). An association of expenditure and age, duration of illness and the disease severity was explored. After adjusting for differences in baseline characteristics by a multivariable analysis, the expenditure of patients with COPD decreased with age and duration of illness, but increased when the disease became more severe.

When integrated with secondary information regarding smoking situation in Thailand, the result from this study indicated that patients with COPD all over the country are spending 25,969 million baht per year for their illness. This figure is a strong evidence supporting the continuation of the antismoking campaign.