

Independent Study Knowledge, Attitude and Practice in AIDS

Title Prevention by Dentists in Chiang Mai
Province

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the dentists' attempts to institute measures to control AIDS spreading in dental clinics; their knowledge, attitude and practice in AIDS prevention; and the dentists' actual preventive methods in AIDS spreading which were related to dental procedures. Three methods of data collection were used in this descriptive study. One hundred and thirty-nine questionnaires from dentists in Chiang Mai were returned. Data obtained through this method were analyzed by statistical correlations. Ten dentists sampled by the nonproportional stratified random sampling method were interviewed and their AIDS preventive procedures in their clinics were also observed. In addition three key informants who

dentists working on AIDS in dental procedures were interviewed. The period of data collection started from March 1992 to June 1992.

It was found that the dentists' attempts to institute measures to control the spreading of AIDS in dental clinics were initiated at the Faculty of Dentistry, Chiang Mai University, and later adopted by private and other clinics. A committee was formed in the Faculty of Dentistry which received subsidized funding from the Ministry of University Affairs. Therefore, in the Faculty of Dentistry control measures were developed. Clinics outside of the Faculty of Dentistry also accepted the measures to be practiced in their own clinics. However, controlling methods were not practiced because of disagreement among some dentists. However there were attempts to impose appropriate methods of control at the clinics outside of the Faculty of Dentistry. For all dentists the average knowledge, attitude and practice scores were quite good. The correlation of knowledge and attitude was significant at $\alpha = 0.05$ level. However, the correlation of knowledge and practice and that of attitude and practice were not significant. When divided into groups of dentists, analyses revealed that the knowledge, attitude and practice of dentists working at the Faculty of Dentistry were significantly correlated at $\alpha = 0.05$. The correlations of knowledge, attitude and practice of others were not significant. The behavior and preventive methods in AIDS spreading in dental procedure were practiced differently among groups. The behavior of the group at the Faculty of Dentistry

the most acceptable. Private dentists' behaviors were largely
affected by factors such as their economics status, investment and
social expectation to dental profession.