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PAIBOON AEAMKUM : BEHAVIOR ON THE USE OF IMPREGNATED
BEDNET AND MALARIA INFECTION AT PAKTHO DISTRICT, RATCHABURI
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The study of behavior on the use of impregnated bednet and malaria infection at Paktho district, Ratchaburi province is a field quasi experimental design. The study was aimed to compare the differences between prevention behaviors, impregnated bednet use and attitude towards malaria prevention of people who lived in an endemic area at Tambol Yang – Hak, Paktho district, Ratchaburi province. This research was conducted from April to October 1999. The sample consisted of 100 people who had been infected with malaria before and recruited by using random sampling. At the beginning, impregnated bednets were distributed to the study group. After 3 months, blood samples were taken for malaria detection using Giemsa stained thick blood film. Interviews for prevention behaviors were performed and recorded.

The results revealed that there were 9 new malaria infected people and there were differences in the use with tucking of impregnated bednets ($p - \text{value} = 0.002$) and the frequencies of sleeping in the impregnated bednets ($p - \text{value} = 0.008$). It also showed that the use without tucking of impregnated bednets had 12 times at risk of infection with malaria. The people who sometimes slept in the impregnated bednets had 6.5 times at risk of infection with malaria than the people who always slept in the impregnated bednets. Therefore, the behavioral differences in the use with tucking of impregnated bednets, and frequencies of sleeping in the impregnated bednets among the people can be applied for malaria prevention in the endemic area.