

Thesis Title            The Effects of Genetic Counselling on Knowledge  
and Attitude in Preventing Thalassemia in Families  
with Thalassemic Children

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## ABSTRACT

Thalassemia is a chronic genetic disease which affects patients as well as the families. It has very high incidence in Thailand and tend to increase every year. A reduction in incidence of Thalassemia is very necessary. Corrected knowledge of Thalassemia, recurrence risk and available options are important factor of a reduction in the incidence of Thalassemia as well as good attitude in preventing Thalassemia is another factor to precipitate effective prevention.

The Purpose of this study was to evaluate the effects of Genetic Counselling on knowledge about Thalassemia and attitude in preventing in families with Thalassemic children. Quasi-experimental research was implemented. The sample was composed of 40 carriers of

Thalassemia women and husbands who have at least one Thalassemic child attended hematology clinic at Siriraj Hospital. The couples were purposively assigned into 2 groups. The first 20 couples were control group who received routine hospital instruction from the hospital personnel and the next 20 couples were the experimental group who received Genetic Counselling about Thalassemia from the researcher.

The pre-test knowledge about Thalassemia and attitude in preventing of all couples were evaluated prior to the study. Three weeks after Genetic Counselling about Thalassemia, the questionnaires of knowledge and attitude were evaluated again. Data were analyzed by using means, standard deviation and ANCOVA.

The results were as follows :

1. The carriers of Thalassemia women and husbands in the experimental group demonstrated significantly higher scores on knowledge about Thalassemia than those in the control group. ( $P < .05$ )

2. The carriers of Thalassemia women and husbands in the experimental group demonstrated significantly higher scores on attitude in preventing Thalassemia than those in the control group. ( $P < .05$ )