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The purpose of this study was to examine the drug regimen compliance of hypertensive patients, as well as to study factors related to patients' compliance behavior such as psychological factors, facilitating conditions, symptoms, and symptom interpretation. The study is also sought to identify the variables that best classify groups of compliant patients. The sample consisted of 271 hypertensive patients from the hypertensive outpatient clinics of one regional and three general hospitals in Ratchaburi province. Patients were interviewed by using a structured questionnaire. SPSS/PC+ computer software was used to analyze data, by using chi-square, t-tests and discriminant analysis.

The results of this study indicate that 62 percent of hypertensive patients fully complied with their doctors' daily rescribed drug regimen. Patients took an average of 3 different kinds of medicine. The mean dosage was 4.5 tablets per day, taken once in the morning and once in the evening. Some patients reported adjusting their dosage without doctors' recommendation. However, more patients reported complying doctors' with the advice.

Chi-square analysis indicate that (a) previous compliance behavior, (b) the dosage of medicine, and experiencing (c) palpitations, (d) nausea, (e) vomitting and (f) fainting were significantly associated with the drug regimen compliance of hypertensive patients.

Factors related to drug regimen compliance behavior were analyzed by discriminant analysis using the stepwise method. The analysis indicates that seven variables : (a) previous compliance behavior, (b) value of perceived consequences concerning compliance behavior, (c) daily medicine dosage, (d) number of symptoms perceived by patients, (e) experiencing palpitations, (f) nausea and (g) fainting significantly discriminated drug regimen compliance behavior. The overall percentage of "grouped" cases correctly classified by using these discriminatory factors was 64.07 percent.