

Thesis Title A Feasibility Study of Utilizing Curcuma longa
Linn as Antacid in Community Hospital

Name Piyathida Tridech

Degree Doctor of Public Health (Health Administration)

Thesis Supervisory Committee

Som-arch Wongkhomthong,	M.D., M.P.H., D.H.Sc.
Debhanom Muangman,	M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.
Swing Suwan,	B.Sc., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.
Thavachai Vorapongsathorn,	B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D.

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the research is to study the feasibility of utilizing Curcuma longa Linn as Antacid in Community Hospitals. The following 4 indicative factors were analyzed : market's need, direct cost (pharmaceutical cost) that could be saved, nationwide Community Hospital Directors' and outpatients' opinions on Curcuma. The research result shows positivity in 3 factors. In terms of market's need, a review of the biostatistical data reflects an increasing annual rate of dyspepsia cases. The prevalence rate of dyspepsia cases during 1981 - 1987 are 52.3, 61.1, 66.4, 76.1, 85.5, 95.3 and 101.5 respectively. Based on these data an upward trend of dyspepsia patients could be projected in the future. A study also revealed that by using Curcuma as antacid, the pharmaceutical cost or direct cost can be saved by Baht 26.5 per treatment. And a direct interview by

Questionnaire Number 2 of 220 dyspepsia outpatients on Curcuma was conducted in the 5 Community Hospitals, namely Soong Noen Hospital in Nakorn Rajaseema Province ; Pol Hospital in Khon Khaen Province ; Wang Num Yen Hospital in Prachin Buri Province ; Bangatun Hospital in Pitsanuloke Province ; and Thung Song Hospital in Nakorn Sritamarat Province. Findings indicate that 87.7% of outpatients are "satisfied" with the quality of Curcuma and its cheap price. They were released from stomach pain and gastric. They suggested that Curcuma form should be improved to be more attractive, and cheap. Availability of Curcuma in any drug stores is also a necessity.

A survey on acceptance by Community Hospital Directors was undertaken by mailing Questionnaire Number 1 to a sample group of 559. The total of 404 returned questionnaires was received representing a respondent rate of 72.27%. Analysis of the data yields rather negative views among the directors. For those respondents who see lesser degree of possibilities, they provided the following reasons : (i) lack of knowledge about herbs among physicians, public health personnel and the public, (ii) lack of comparative scientific, pharmaceutical and clinical research on uses of herbs and western medicine. There are 33 respondents (8.2%) ever used Curcuma in curing patients. For this group of physicians, their opinions were in possible range. However, about 60% of the respondents are of opinion that Crocodile tongue, Curcuma and Cassia alata L. could be used for treatment in Community Hospitals.