

Thesis Title Opinions of Physicians and Nurses toward Abortion in
HIV Infected Pregnant Women

Name Sunee Thanakhumtorn

Degree Master of Education (Population Education)

Thesis Supervisory Committee

Nawarat Phlainoi, Ed.D.

Supavan Phlainoi, Ed.D.

Praphaphan Oon-ob, M.Ed.

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ABSTRACT

The purposes of this study were to investigate the opinions and factors related to opinions of physicians and nurses toward abortion in HIV Infected pregnant women. The research samples were physicians and nurses working in Obstetric-Gynaecology Department of Regional Hospital and Medical Center, General Hospital and Community Hospital all 163 hospitals. 910 samples were selected by Quota sampling. Data collecting by mailing the questionnaires and 74.1% reported back. The frequency, percentage, means, standard deviation and Chi-square were employed in this study.

Major findings are as follows:

Most of the sample agree with abortion in the following cases : harmful pregnancy (98.1%), pregnancy from rape (97.9%), fetal deformity (97.8%), HIV infected prostitute (91.2%), drug addict with HIV infection (90.9%), housewife contacted HIV from her husband (89.3%), single female contacted HIV from her boyfriend (88.3%) and HIV infection from improper sexual behavior (86.2%). However, most of them agree only on the condition that the pregnant woman and her family determine to have an abortion on their own and the gestational age not over 16 weeks. Moreover, the HIV infected pregnant women must have a sterilization after the abortion.

When an HIV infected pregnant woman requires an abortion, most of the sample (70.2%) provide the action for the following reasons : to prevent social problems, to reduce family problems and to reduce numbers of HIV infected patients. On the other hand, 27.7% of the sample refuse the requirement for the following reasons : the HIV transmission rate by pregnancy is only 30-50%, the action is immoral, AIDS may be curable in the future and it violates human right.

Factors related to the opinions toward abortion in the HIV infected women are morality, career, characteristic of the job, gender, specific experience on Obstetric-Gynaecology, position, attitude toward the HIV infected pregnant woman and age.

Based on the findings, the researcher recommends that :

- 1) There should be definite regulation of management for the HIV infected women to be a guideline for Obstetric-Gynaecological staff all over the country.

- 2) There should be a legal statement, clearly suggests whether a physician is allowed to provide an abortion procedure for an HIV infected woman.

- 3) There should be a pre-marital counselling including pre-parental blood testing to detect HIV infection and to prevent undesirable pregnancy.

- 4) There should be an effective family planning education provided for HIV infected patients. In order to prevent pregnancy and abortion in HIV infected women in the future.