

Thesis Title Social Factors Discriminating Patients Getting Treatment for Different Stages of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this explanatory study was to examine the social factors that can discriminate getting treatment for early stage and late stage of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma, as well as to study the relationship between socio-demographic and getting treatment for different stages of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma. The samples consisted of 100 Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma patients from the ear nose throat from the outpatient and inpatient Department and Radiation Department of Ramathibodi Hospital. Patients were interviewed by using a structured questionnaire and guide line indepth interview. Data analysis was done by using chi-square, t-tests and discriminant analysis with SPSS/Pc⁺ computer software. A results of this study indicated that 53 percent of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma patients got treatment in late stage. Chi-Square analysis indicated that (a) sex,

(b) education, (c) salary, (d) neck mass, (e) headache, (f) diplopia, (g) sensory face loss, (h) perceived abnormality of getting cold, (i) first doctor visit, (j) number of traditional medication and (k) compliance of receiving radiation, were significantly associated with patient getting treatment for different stages of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma.

Factors related to patients' getting treatment for different stages of nasopharyngeal carcinoma and theoretical concepts were analysed by discriminant analysis using the stepwise method. The eight variables: (a) sex, (b) education, (c) salary, (d) neck mass, (e) diplopia, (f) sensory face loss, (g) number of traditional medication and (h) compliance of receiving radiation were found significantly discriminated patients' getting treatment for different stages of nasopharyngeal carcinoma. Moreover, the analysis also revealed that neck mass was the most powerfull variable to classify groups of patients' getting treatment for different stages. The overall percentage of "grouped" cases correctly classified by using these discriminatory factors was 78.8 percent.