

ABSTRACT

Blood lead (Pb) levels were measured by atomic absorption spectrophotometer in 404 subjects in Khon Kaen province. These subjects were divided into 3 groups; group I (do not chew betel lime, n=269) group II (chew betel-lime regularly, n=107) and group III (chew betel - lime rarely, n=28) Mean (and range) of Pb for group I, group II and group III were 10.16 ug% (2-35.5 ug%), 10.72 ug% (3-35.5 ug%) and 8.21 ug% (3-21.5 ug%) respectively. No significant difference were observed between 3 mean values ($p > 0.05$). The median blood lead level for 3 groups were 7.00 ug%. These findings suggest that Pb in lime do not influence the lead accumulation in blood in betel - lime chewer