

Thesis title Factors associated with the reliability
 of oral examination by teachers in
 Phuket Primary School Oral Disease
 Surveillance Program.

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ABSTRACT

In Thailand, a surveillance system in oral hygiene practice especially for primary school was launched all over the country during May 1988. School health teachers were given the responsibility of providing oral examination for school children twice a year (in June and December). The program was based on the surveillance concept to identify the high risk groups for oral diseases which emphasize on gingivitis. The purpose of the present study was to find out the factors affecting the reliability of oral examination data of teachers in Phuket.

The study, conducted in February - March 1990, to assess the reliability of oral examination, 58 teachers were selected and assigned to perform oral examination with 580 schoolchildren as the subject of this study (1 teacher : 10 schoolchildren). The "reliability of oral examination" was assessed by re-examination which was performed by one dental nurse for all subjects. The oral diagnostic method employed was based on Oral Disease Surveillance Indices (Oral Hygiene Index and Dental Caries Index). It was found that diagnoses were identical in 71.2% for Dental Caries Index and 61.8% for Oral Hygiene Index. From Kappa statistic, the reliability of oral examination was classified into fair reproducibility category for both Dental Caries Index and Oral Hygiene Index; the Kappa values were 0.32 and 0.21 respectively. And it was also found that teachers tended to underscore with significant difference among high and low Kappa value groups (at $p < 0.05$).

It also included assessment of knowledge, attitude and number of examined children of teachers. The results showed the knowledge score ranged from 16 to 31 out of total 32 scores (mean \pm SE. = 21 ± 0.45) and teachers had positive attitude towards Oral Disease Surveillance Program with the mean of Likert score = 3.24. The number of examined children by teachers ranged from 44 to 2268 (mean \pm SE. = 589 ± 55).

The influence of knowledge and attitude of teachers in relation to the reliability of oral examination data was found that knowledge was related to Oral Hygiene Index with Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient = 0.258 and attitude was related to Dental Caries Index with Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient = 0.275, and both were significantly different ($p < 0.05$).

Hypothetically, the number of examined children should influence directly with the reliability of oral examination data but this study found no association. Recommendation for future training course and clarification of Indices used were also listed.