

Thesis Title      Patient's Delay and Doctor's Delay  
                         in the Diagnosis of Tuberculosis  
                         in TB Zonal Center II, Thailand

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#### ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to determine the length of delay - patient's, doctor's and total delays in the diagnosis of tuberculosis as well as the factors associated with patient's delay.

This study was mainly focused on the socio-demographic

and economic factors, health-seeking behavior, knowledge, attitude and perception of the TB patients on tuberculosis as well as the time spent with the doctors until diagnosis was made and treatment initiated.

The study sample was 160 TB patients who attended at the TB Zonal Center II from March 18 - April 22, 1994. Data were collected through interview using a structured questionnaire and patient's record review. SPSS computer program was used to analyze the data.

The results of the study could be summarized as follows:

1. Patient's delay was 73.2 % (39.4 % up to one month and 33.8 % beyond one month) while that of doctor's was 40.6 % (19.4 % and 21.3 %) respectively. Total delay was 90 % (26.9 up to one month and 63.1 % beyond one month).

2. The factor found to be significantly associated with patient's delay was sex.

3. The factors which were not significantly associated with patient's delay were age, marital status, occupation, education, income, distance of travel, source of information about tuberculosis, knowledge, attitude and

perception of tuberculosis.

4. Patient's delay is not correlated with knowledge, attitude and perception of tuberculosis.

5. Knowledge and perception as well as attitude and perception are correlated.

6. The longer the patient's delay, the more serious the TB status, the shorter the doctor's delay.