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KEDSARAPORN KENBUBPHA : ASSOCIATION BETWEEN
ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS AND SUDDEN DEATH IN PSYCHOTIC PATIENTS
AT A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL. THESIS ADVISORS : CHATCHAWAN
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The purpose of this study was to determine types and dosages of antipsychotic drugs that were associated with sudden death in psychotic patients who were admitted at Srithunya Hospital. The case group who was patients with sudden death according to the definition of Castelli was selected by a purposive sampling(54 cases). The control group was living patients who was matched with the case group in terms of gender and date or year of admission to the hospital, was selected by a simple random sampling(108 controls). Data collection was conducted by reviewing medical records from January 1, 1989 to December 31, 1999. The results showed that thioridazine and chlorpromazine were associated with sudden death. Also, the strength of association increased when these drugs were used in a high dosage. The dose-response analysis indicated that significant dosage of thioridazine related to sudden death started with at 1-50 mg/day(OR=1.29, 95%CI=1.28-1.30) to the highest dose at 451-500 mg/day(OR=121.82, 95%CI=121.22-122.42). The dosage of chlorpromazine started to be significantly associated with sudden death at 1-50 mg/day (OR=1.12, 95%CI=1.117-1.123) to the highest dose at 551-600 mg/day (OR=14.12, 95%CI=14.08-14.16). These results suggest that thioridazine and chlorpromazine were associated with sudden death in psychotic patients, and the strength of association would increase with the dosage of the drugs used. The dosage of thioridazine and chlorpromazine(125 and 250 mg/day relatively) should be carefully started when given to psychotic patients because the odd ratios are more than 3 and they are considered significantly sufficient to be risk factors of sudden death.