

3936800 PYCP/M : MAJOR : CLINICAL PHARMACY ; M.Sc.in Pharm.
(Clinical Pharmacy)

KEY WORD : NONCOMPLIANCE / ANTIHYPERTENSIVE DRUG /
HYPERTENSION / PHARMACIST / DRUG COUNSELING

WANCHAN PUNYAWANTANEE : NONCOMPLIANCE OF ANTI-
HYPERTENSIVE DRUGS USED AMONG OUT-PATIENTS AT SURAT-THANI
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PUMMANGURA, M.S. 100 p. ISBN 974-589-510-5

Noncompliance of antihypertensive drugs used among out-patients at Surat-thani Hospital was studied with the objectives to find the incidence of noncompliance of antihypertensive drug usage and the improvement of compliance after counseling. The study was performed at free of charge outpatient dispensing unit, Pharmacy Department, Surat-thani Hospital, between 16th June 1997 and 31st October 1997. One hundred and eight hypertensive patients (75 women and 33 men) with mean \pm SD age of 61.0 ± 10.2 years old were recruited. Each patient was interviewed to detect noncompliance problems of antihypertensive drug usage, then the problems were resolved by counseling and patients were followed-up. The interview and counseling were performed on two consecutive visits during the study period. At the first visit, noncompliance problems were found in 67.6 % of patients and the incidence was decreased to 26.9 % of patients at the second visit. The type of noncompliance mostly found at two visits were "stopping to take medicine" (58.3 % and 24.1 % at the first and the second visit, respectively). There was no significant difference in the incidence of noncompliance according to differences in age, sex, number of item of antihypertensive drugs, number of doses per day of antihypertensive drugs, number of item of total prescribed drugs, ability to read, convenience of transportation, place of residence, and presence of a caregiver.

It was concluded that hypertensive patients were at risk of drug noncompliance and the incidence would be reduced if patients were interviewed and counseled by pharmacists.