

4136341 PHPH/M : INFECTIOUS DISEASE; M.Sc. (PUBLIC HEALTH)

KEY WORDS : HBsAg CARRIER / SEROPREVALENCE / RISK FACTORS
/ HILL-TRIBE WOMEN

TAWATCHAI KEEREECAMSUKE : RISK FACTORS OF HEPATITIS B SURFACE CARRIER IN AKHA AND LISAW; HILL-TRIBE, COUPLE REPRODUCTIVE WOMEN. THESIS ADVISOR: NACHAPORN PICHAINARONG, Dr.P.H., PIPAT LUKSAMJARULKUL, M.Sc., DUSIT SUJIRARAT, M.Sc., WIZIZ CHAVEEPOJNKAMJORN, D.V.M., M.P.H., 128 P. ISBN 974-663-540-9

This study, a cross-sectional design aimed to determine the seroprevalence of HBsAg and possible risk factors for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) carriers among married women of reproductive age of two hill-tribe groups: Akha and Lisaw, Chiang-rai province, Thailand. This study was conducted between June 1 and August 31, 1999. Reverse Passive Hemagglutination (RPHA) technique was used for HBsAg testing. Data were collected using completed questionnaires and blood samples for HBsAg testing. The chi-square test (p -value at 0.0500) and logistic regression were used for data analysis and controlling possible confounding factors. The sample consisted of 540 subjects (86.40%) out of 625 subjects who enrolled to participate in this study. One hundred and sixty four subjects were Lisaw (30.37%) and 376 subjects were Akha (69.63%). Most of them were illiterate (88.71%) and had an annual family income equal to 9,999 baht or lower (50.93%). Agricultural workers comprised 96.67%, and 51.29% were Buddhist. The seroprevalence of HBsAg was 8.15%. After controlling for annual family income, contraceptive use and ethnicity, the findings showed that receiving medical injections 1-5 times in the last year indicated an approximately 3.80 times chance of being a HBsAg carrier (OR=3.80, 95% CI=1.26-11.48). Receiving medical injections (in the last year) of six times or more indicated an approximately 5.46 times chance of being a HBsAg carrier (OR=5.46, 95% CI= 1.45-20.58).

The results of this study suggest that campaigning for the use of disposable syringes and needles is necessary for protection against HBV, HCV and HIV transmission.