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JARUNEE WARAHUT : NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND FOOD CONSUMPTION BEHAVIOR OF CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE PATIENTS. THESIS ADVISORS : PENCHUN SAREEWIWATTHANA, M.Sc. (ANATOMY), VENUS LEELAHAKUL, Ds.C. (NUTRITION), KRONGDAI UNHASUTA, Ed.D. (HIGHER EDUCATION), 93 p. ISBN 974 – 663 – 169 –1

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) affects the physiology, psychology and neuropsychology of patients. Malnutrition frequently occurs in COPD patients increasing their mortality. The purpose of this study was to investigate food consumption behavior and the nutritional status of COPD patients. The sample consisted of 100 randomly selected patients who were followed up at the out patient clinics at Lerdsin, Chulalongkorn and Rajvithi Hospitals. The patients were interviewed and data was collected on demographics, food consumption behavior, knowledge of food intake and assistance with food intake questionnaires were developed by the researcher and their content validity was assessed by experts. Cronbach's test for reliability was used for food consumption behavior and assistance with food intake giving α - coefficient of 0.81, 0.82, respectively. Knowledge of food intake data was analyzed using the Kuder – Richardson test that yielded 0.82. Nutritional status was assessed by means of BMI. Data were further analyzed by percentage, mean, standard deviation , Pearson's correlation coefficient and Spearman's rank correlation.

The results of this study indicated that the majority of the subjects had normal nutritional status (60%), good food consumption behavior (71%), moderate knowledge of food intake (53%) and moderate(47%) assistance with food intake . The correlation between food consumption behavior and knowledge of food intake, sufficiency of annual income, assistance with food intake were all positively significant ($r = .296$, $p < .01$, $r = .244$, $p < .05$, $r = .243$, $p < .05$, respectively). Food consumption behavior did not correlate with nutritional status ($r = -.128$, $p = .204$). These findings, suggest that educating and encouraging patients and their care giver about food consumption behavior should be considered. Further research should be conducted to examine the roles and effects of care givers in assisting the food intake and nutritional status of COPD patients.