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SOMJAI CHANTAVORALUK : SERO-EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS AND HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS INFECTIONS AMONG SELECTED GROUPS OF SKIN DISEASE PATIENTS. THESIS ADVISORS : PIPAT LUKSAMIJARULKUL, M.Sc., WALAI-ORN PRACHYAPRUIT, M.D., DIP. THE THAI BOARD OF DERMATOLOGY, ORANUT PACHEUN, Dr.P.H., 119 P. ISBN 974-662-750-3

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infections may be associated with skin diseases which did not respond well to conventional therapy. This study attempted to investigate the prevalence of HCV, HIV infections and some risk factors among patients with skin diseases. A group of 150 skin disease patients who did not respond well to conventional therapy were selected at the Institute of Dermatology between April to December 1998. All cases were interviewed and their blood specimens were collected for testing on anti-HCV and anti-HIV by ELISA method. After laboratory results, they were divided into two groups in order to analyze some epidemiological variables associated with the infections. The results revealed that the prevalence of anti-HCV, anti-HIV and coinfection of HCV and HIV were 6.67%, 50.67% and 5.33%, respectively. Skin disease patients with bacterial infection and other infections had a higher prevalence of HCV, HIV infections and coinfection (19.23%, 73.08% and 7.69%, respectively). Epidemiological factors, including income and injecting drug use were significantly associated with HCV infection ($p < 0.05$). Whereas factors including occupation (labourer), injecting drug use, drinking alcohol, extramarital relations and types of skin lesions were significantly associated with HIV infection ($p < 0.05$)