

4036587 PHPH/M : MAJOR:INFECTIOUS DISEASES;M.Sc.(PUBLIC HEALTH)
KEY WORDS : DISABILITY DAYS / MALARIA / WORK DAYS LOST
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DISABILITY DAYS FROM MALARIA. THESIS ADVISORS:WONGDYAN
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974-662-947-6

Malaria is one of the world's most important health problems leading to great socio-economic impact. This study was conducted with the aim of determining the disability days per malaria episode. Prospective cohort study among 240 malaria patients was carried out between May and August 1998, in Suanphung District, Ratchaburi Province, to determine the association between the predictor factors such as age, sex, occupation, past history of malaria, delayed diagnosis and treatment, parasite species, severity of symptoms, and the disability days. The data was analyzed by using the multiple regression model.

The results of study revealed that the number of disability days (mean \pm sd) from *Plasmodium falciparum* (5.2 ± 2.9) was found to be significantly greater than from *Plasmodium vivax* (3.9 ± 2.0) with p-value <0.001 . Male patients had significantly shorter period of disability days compared to females for both the falciparum and vivax malaria infections. Patients in the older age groups (≥ 60) also had more disability days compared to younger (15-59) age groups. The mean number of disability days among patients with severe malaria symptoms was significantly greater compared to patients with moderate and mild malaria symptoms.

In the regression model, age, sex, occupation, delayed diagnosis and treatment, signs and symptoms of malaria were significantly associated with disability days. Moreover, 37% of the variation of disability days resulting from malaria attacks could be predicted by the six most important predictor variables i.e. signs and symptoms of malaria, age, delayed diagnosis and treatment, parasite species, occupation and sex.