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ANCHALEE NAOWARATSOPON: PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO PERCEIVED STRESS AMONG THAI DENTISTS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS. THESIS ADVISORS: SUREE KANJANAWONG Ph.D., REDA KASETSUWAN D.D.S., M.P.H., CHAIWAT PANJAPHONGSE Ph.D. 106p. ISBN 974-664-733-4.

Dentistry has been under controversy for being a stressful profession. This study concerns psychosocial aspects of a dentist. The purposes were to examine perceived stress and the relationships between hardiness personality, work experience, perceived job factors, and perceived stress among Thai dentists. Data was collected from all Thai dentists working in public hospitals in Bangkok during November and December, 1999. A self-administered questionnaire was used. One part consisted of items about socio-demographic and practice information, the others consisted of measures on psychosocial aspect including hardiness personality, work experience, perceived job factors, and perceived outcome. Findings indicate that, among the 186 responding dentists, 29.5 percent reported substantially perceived stress. The results show that socio-demographic characteristics as well as practice characteristics have no significant relationship with the level of dentists' perceived stress. Among psychosocial factors, only perceived job factors and perceived outcome are significant predictors accounting for 27.3 percent of the variance of the dentists' perceived stress. The correlation coefficients of the two factors are .547 ($p = .000$) and $-.391$ ($p = .025$) respectively. Within 12 variables of perceived job factors, only three variables are correlated significantly with perceived stress. Role conflict is found to have the highest correlation with perceived stress ($B = 2.902$, $p = .003$), follow by relationship with staff ($B = 2.445$, $p = .014$) and qualitative overload ($B = 1.653$, $p = .038$). Interventions through job approach are recommended and discussed.