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CHAYA INTARAK : FACTORS RELATED TO INTERRUPTED  
TREATMENT IN PATIENTS WITH TUBERCULOSIS : NAKORNSRITHAM-  
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In order to determine the factors that related to interrupted treatment and to predict the occurrence of interrupted treatment of the patients with pulmonary tuberculosis, a cross-sectional study was conducted at TB center 11 and TB clinic in governmental hospitals in Nakornsri thammarat province. Study samples were patients with pulmonary tuberculosis who were registered during 1 January - 30 June 1996, and all of them had 6 month short course chemo-therapy. Data collecting was done by interviewing the study subjects using the interview form during 22 July 1996 - 15 January 1997. Total number of study subjects were 271. Pearson's chi squared test, Fisher's exact test, Odds Ratio and 95 percent confidence interval of Odds Ratio were used to test the association of variables, and risk scores were used to predict interrupted treatment of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis.

From multivariate analysis, 7 factors which statistically associated with interrupted treatment were sex, education, distance from home to health service center, smoking, knowledge of pulmonary tuberculosis, social support from family, and life crisis event during treatment. 5 factors that can be used as predictors were; far distance, alcohol drinking, low level of knowledge of pulmonary tuberculosis, low level of social support from family, and having life crisis event during treatment. Tuberculosis patients with total risk scores of  $\geq 8$  (3-5 risk factors) interrupted treatment 10.17 times compared to those who had total risk scores of 5 (no risk factors).

The results suggest that tuberculosis patients could be divided into 3 levels according to the risk of interrupted treatment; high (scores 8-10), moderate (scores 6-7), and low (score 5). Home visit should be more frequently done in high risk group. Follow-up letter and increased intensity of supervision should be done in moderate and low risk group.