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Thesis Title

Vocal Nodule : A Survey Study at

Speech Clinic, Siriraj Hospital

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Master of Arts (Communication Disorders)

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Abstract

The purpose of this survey was to study factors associated with vocal nodule patients seen at speech clinic, Siriraj Hospital during July 1983 to June 1987. The total of 560 voice disordered patients were screened. The information was obtained from the medical files and patients' interviews. The voice evaluation was conducted by qualified speech pathologists. The results indicated that 17.67% of voice disordered patients had vocal nodules. 29.29% of the cases were children, the ratio of male to female was 4:1. While 70.71% of the cases under examination were adults, the sex ratio was 1:9. There were more cases with bilateral compared to unilateral vocal nodule with the ratio of 5:1. Vocal nodules were found at the junction of the anterior and middle $\frac{1}{3}$ of the vocal cords in 61.29% of the cases. 54.59% of the vocal nodule patients had noted the occurrence of voice problems for one year or less while the rest of the patients complained of voice problems for more than one year. The severity of voice problems associated with vocal nodule could be classified as mild (16.28%), moderate (46.51%) and severe (37.21%). Occupation affected the

prevalence of vocal nodule; 66.87% of the patients had jobs that required excessive use of voice. The vocal abuse was in the form of shouting, screaming or straining. 76.67% of the vocal nodule patients had talkative personality charactistics. Problems of upper respiratory tract were common among vocal nodule patients, this included chronic cold (38.46%), sinusitis (32.31%), allergy (23.08%) based on information obtaind from patients' interviews. However, sunsitis was found to be the most concomitant disease under medical examination. There was no percentage difference among various sibling orders or the number of children in the family. The majority (72.73%) of the vocal nodule patients came from family size of 6-10 member Children with vocal nodules were found to have frequent disogreement with other members of the family. Married status did not influence the frequency of vocal nodule occurence. 94.92% of the married couples lived with their sponses. 60% of the patients had children and 82.35% of the married patients had more than one child. The results of this survey could be used as quideline for effective diagnosis and management of voice disorders. In order to reduce the occurrence of vocal nodul, general knowledge on the nature of the disorders should be provided for public.