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NGUYEN DUC HONG : PATIENTS' ADHERENCE TO DOTS IN LONG-AN PROVINCE, SOUTHERN VIETNAM. THESIS ADVISORS : JUNYA PATTARAARCHACHAI Sc.D., YUPAPORN WATTANAGOON M.B.B.S., D.T.M.&H., Dip. THAI BOARD OF INTERNAL MED., SOMBOON KIETINUN M.D., F.R.C.O.G.T., 59p. ISBN : 974-663-901-3.

This is a cross-sectional descriptive study whose aim was to identify patients' adherence to DOTS in TB control program in Long-an province, Southern Vietnam and its related socio-demographic and psychosocial factors.

One hundred and forty nine new patients of various TB categories who had been under treatment more than one month were interviewed from 9 to 24 March 1999 by using a relevant structured questionnaire. Patient medical records were also reviewed to confirm patients' status on registration and their level of adherence to DOTS.

The findings of this study revealed that about 87% of the respondents had followed the treatment procedures strictly. More than 13% were irregular in taking the prescribed medication, mainly in the continuation phase. There was a highly significant association between the time treated and the adherence with p-value of 0.000. Similar associations were demonstrated concerning patients' knowledge of treatment, overall knowledge, overall perception of illness and treatment, and travelling time with p-value equal to 0.003, 0.029, 0.027 and 0.04 respectively. The other factors such as socio-demographic characteristics, perception of health services and facilities, distance to health center and travelling means or waiting time for service showed no association with patients' adherence.

Through this study, emphases were placed upon revising and increasing the quality as well as the quantity of health education about treatment among TB patients under treatment.